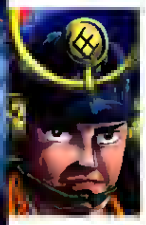
コミック

新田次郎原作

横山光輝

武田信玄

⑤竜虎の巻



歴史コミック52

新田次郎

武田信玄

5

横山光輝

むかで衆

雑誌 45610-52

ISBN4-06-104352-8

C0379 ¥500E (0)

講談社

K C

定価500円

コミック

新田次郎原作　横山光輝

武田信玄

⑤竜虎の巻

歴史コミック52

新田次郎

武田信玄 5

横山光輝

講談社
K C

むかで衆

武田信玄 ⑤竜虎の巻

天文二十三年(一五五四年)、今川義元の要請を受けた甲斐の虎・晴信は、信繁を総大将として駿河刈屋川に北条氏康と対陣したが、今川の軍師・雪斎禅師の調停のもと、富士郡善得寺で駿河・相模・甲斐の三国同盟が成立した。

翌年、雪解けを待って越後の竜・長尾景虎(謙信)が、越後・奥信濃兵総勢二万で川中島の海津館を攻め、犀川をはさんで二百日にわたる第二回川中島の戦いとなる。

その間、湖衣姫の病状は悪化し、二十五歳の若さで……

晴信(信玄)花押

TAKEDA SHINGEN

武田信玄

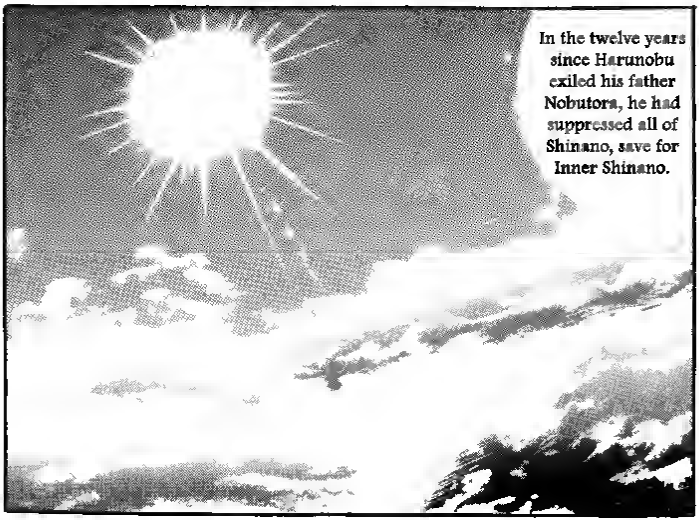
VOLUME 5:
THE DRAGON
AND THE
TIGER

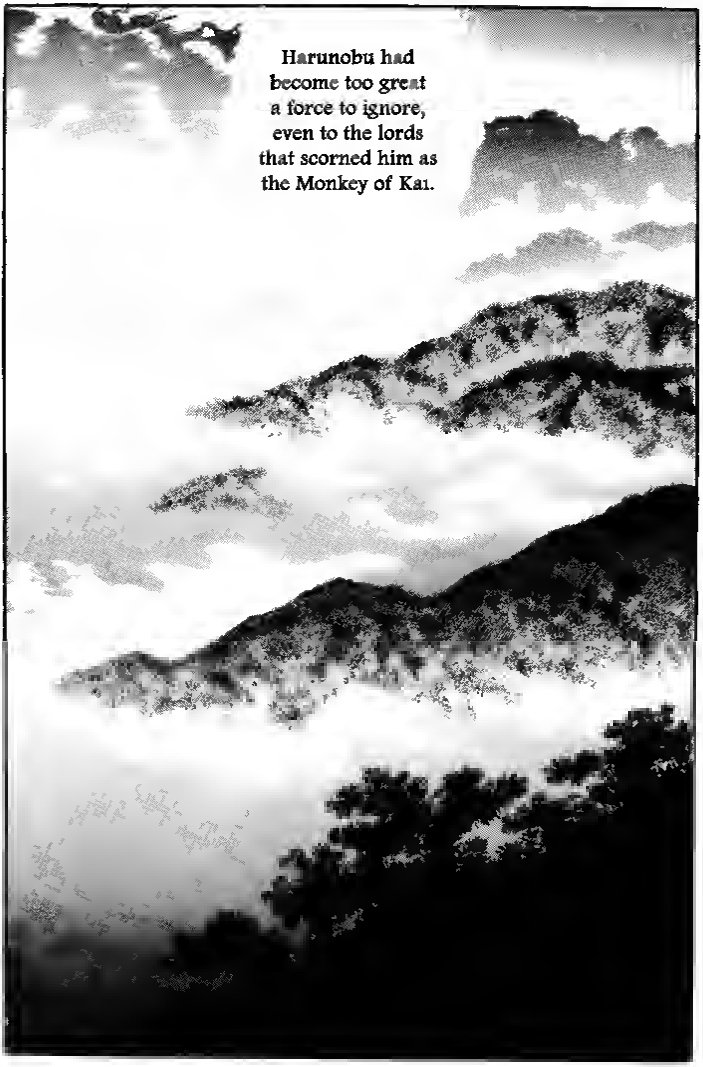
BY
YOKOYAMA
MITSUTERU

Table of Contents

Chapter 36: March on Suruga
Chapter 37: Alliance of Three Provinces
Chapter 38: The Second Battle of Kawanakajima
Chapter 39: The Arbitrator
Chapter 40: Violating the Oath
Chapter 41: Harunobu-Style Welcome
Chapter 42: The "Wavering in the Wicked Wind"Question
Chapter 43: Harunobu the Phantom
Chapter 44: Harunobu Shaves His Hair

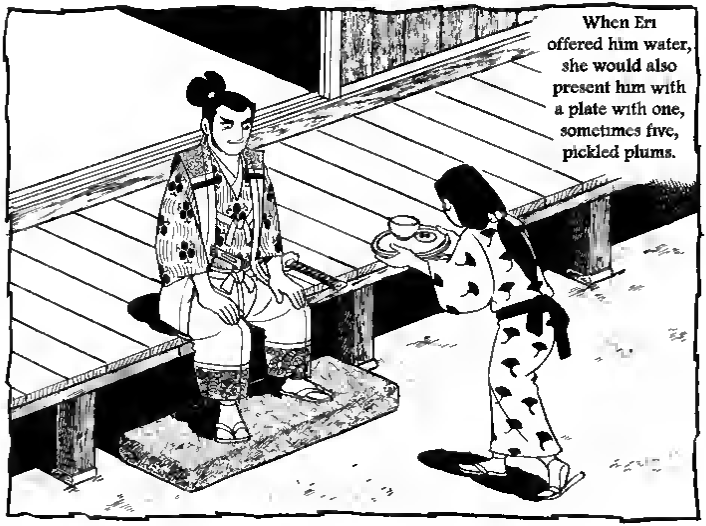
Chapter 36: March on Suruga

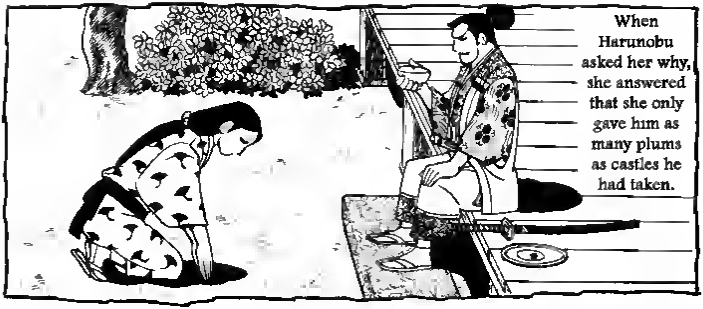



Harunobu had
become too great
a force to ignore,
even to the lords
that scorned him as
the Monkey of Kai.

Eri was the daughter of a Takeda clan retainer whom Harunobu stopped by for some water while he was out horseback riding.

About that time, Harunobu took in a seventeen-year-old concubine named Eri.

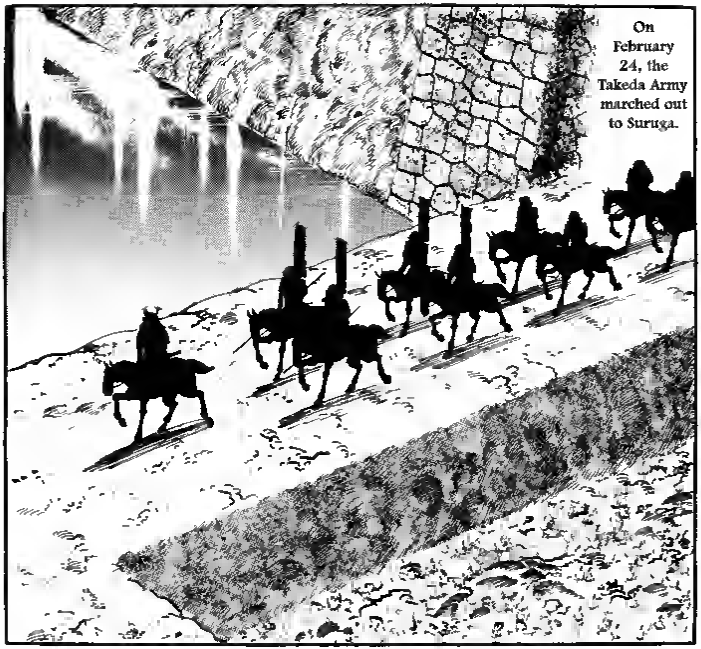


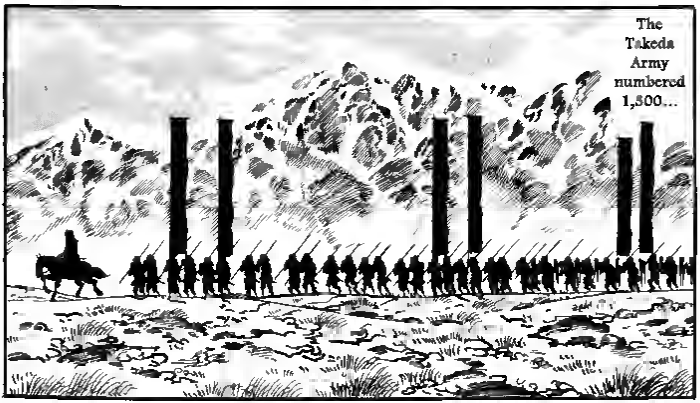

When Harunobu asked her why, she answered that she only gave him as many plums as castles he had taken.

At the time, it was common practice to have several concubines to give birth to children, and use these children form alliances with the lords of other provinces through political marriages.
Harunobu took a liking to her, and took her in as his concubine.

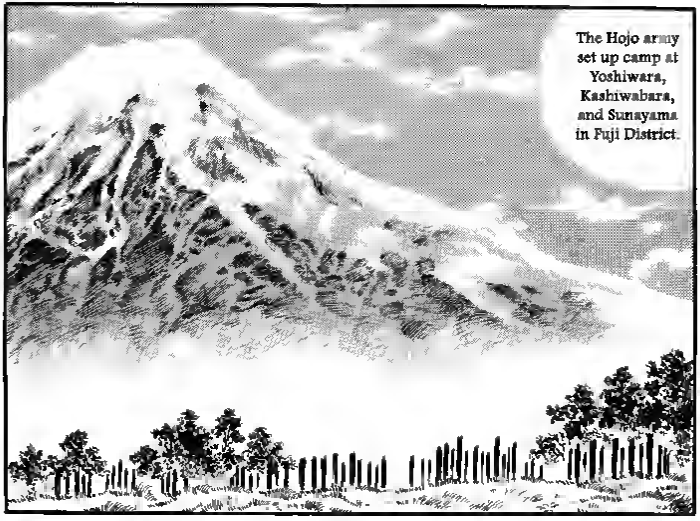
Tenbun year
23 (1554)
IT SEEMS THAT WHILE LORD IMAGAWA WAS FIGHTING ODA NOBUHIDE AT MIKAWA, HOJO UJIYASU OF SAGAMI LED THREE THOUSAND SOLDIERS TO INVADE THE DOMAIN OF SURUGA.
MY LORD, WHAT NEWS FROM LORD IMAGAWA YOSHIMOTO?

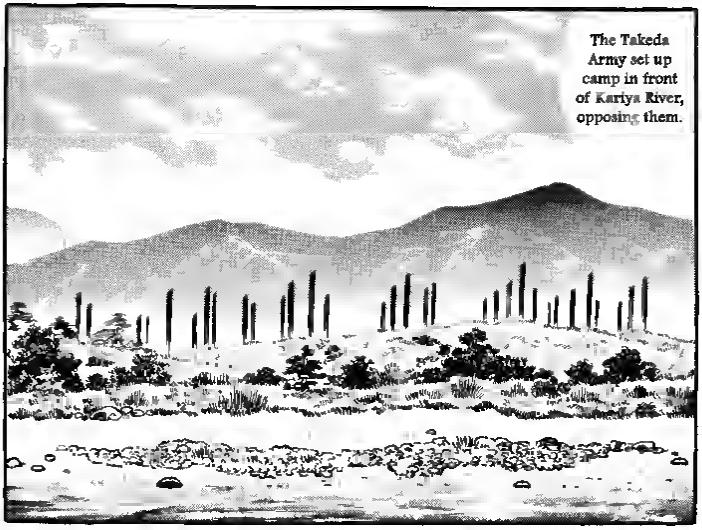
TARO YOSHINOBU IS MARRIED TO LORD IMAGAWA'S DAUGHTER. I CANNOT OBJECT.
IS HE REQUESTING REINFORCE-MENTS?
YES .. BUT HOW WOULD NAGAO KAGETORA OF ECHIGO REACT IF HE FOUND OUT I HAD LEFT KAI?
THEN SHALL WE MARCH OUT IMMEDIATELY?
WHISPER WHISPER
COME CLOSER.


On February 24, the Takeda Army marched out to Suruga.


The Takeda Army numbered 1,500...

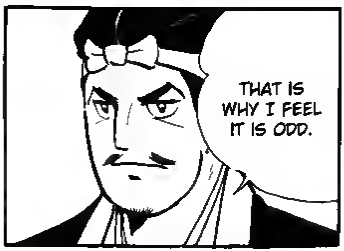
With Takeda Nobushige, Harunobu's brother, as the commander,
and Morozumi Bungo-no-Kami by his side.
and Oyamada Yasaburo Nobushige
Harunobu had disguised himself among the retainers as Morozumi Bungo-no-Kami's standard-bearers.

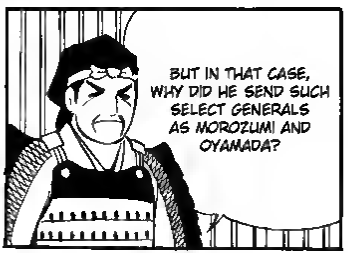

The Hojo army set up camp at Yoshiwara, Kashiwabara, and Sunayama in Fuji District.

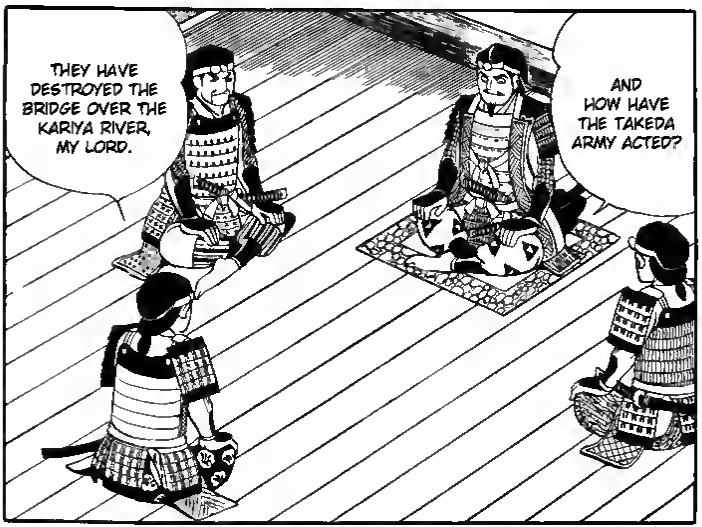

The Takeda Army set up camp in front of Kariya River, opposing them.

Hojo Army's main camp
WHAT? NOBUSHIGE IS COMMANDING THE TAKEDA ARMY?
YES, MY LORD BUT HE HAS THE MIGHTY GENERALS OYAMADA NOBUSHIGE AND MOROZUMI BUNGO-NO-KAMI AS HIS ASSISTANTS

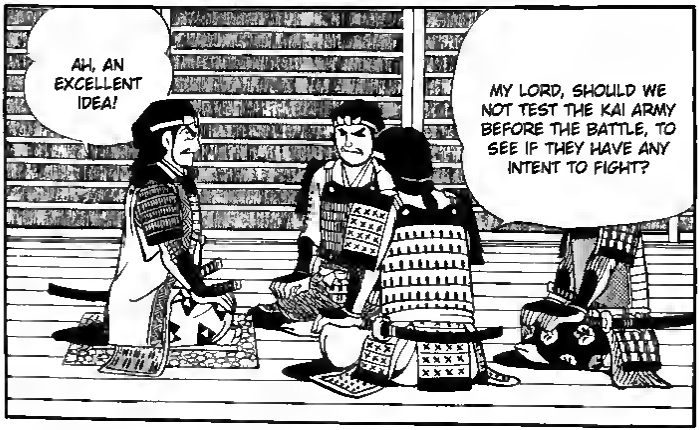
HMM... THAT IS ODD, INDEED. IF HARUNOBU HAS NOT COME HIMSELF, IT MEANS HE HAS ONLY SET FORTH OUT OF HIS DUTY TO IMAGAWA, RATHER THAN A SERIOUS INTENT TO FIGHT US


THAT IS WHY I FEEL IT IS ODD.

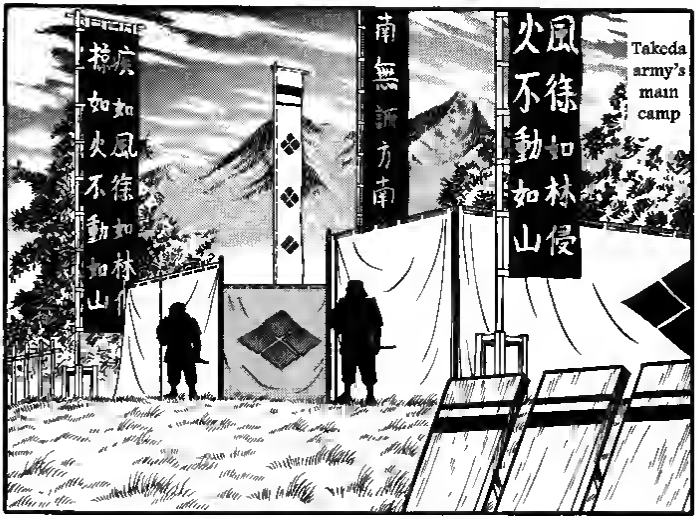

BUT IN THAT CASE, WHY DID HE SEND SUCH SELECT GENERALS AS MOROZUMI AND OYAMADA?

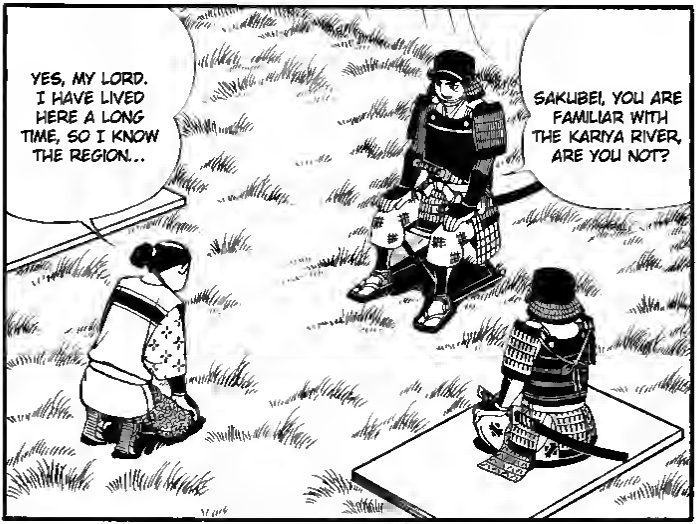

THEY HAVE DESTROYED THE BRIDGE OVER THE KARIYA RIVER, MY LORD.
AND HOW HAVE THE TAKEDA ARMY ACTED?

EVEN WITH TWO MIGHTY GENERALS AT HIS SIDE, AN AVERAGE COMMANDER IS NOT TO BE FEARED.
I DO NOT KNOW THE FULL EXTENT OF THE TAKEDA ARMY'S POWER, HAVING NEVER FOUGHT AGAINST THEM BEFORE, BUT I HAVE ALSO NEVER HEARD OF THE EXPLOITS OF NOBUSHIGE.


AH, AN EXCELLENT IDEA!
MY LORD, SHOULD WE NOT TEST THE KAI ARMY BEFORE THE BATTLE, TO SEE IF THEY HAVE ANY INTENT TO FIGHT?

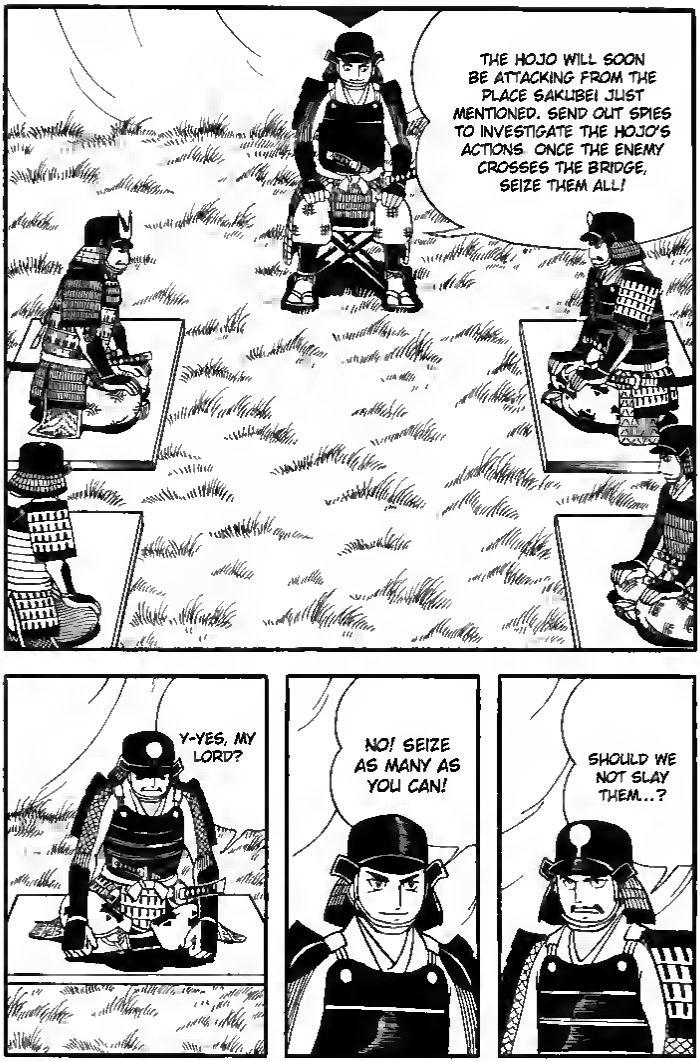
YES, MY LORD!
VERY WELL! AT FIRST LIGHT TOMORROW, CROSS THE KARIYA RIVER UPSTREAM AND HARASS THE KAI ARMY'S LOOKOUTS!

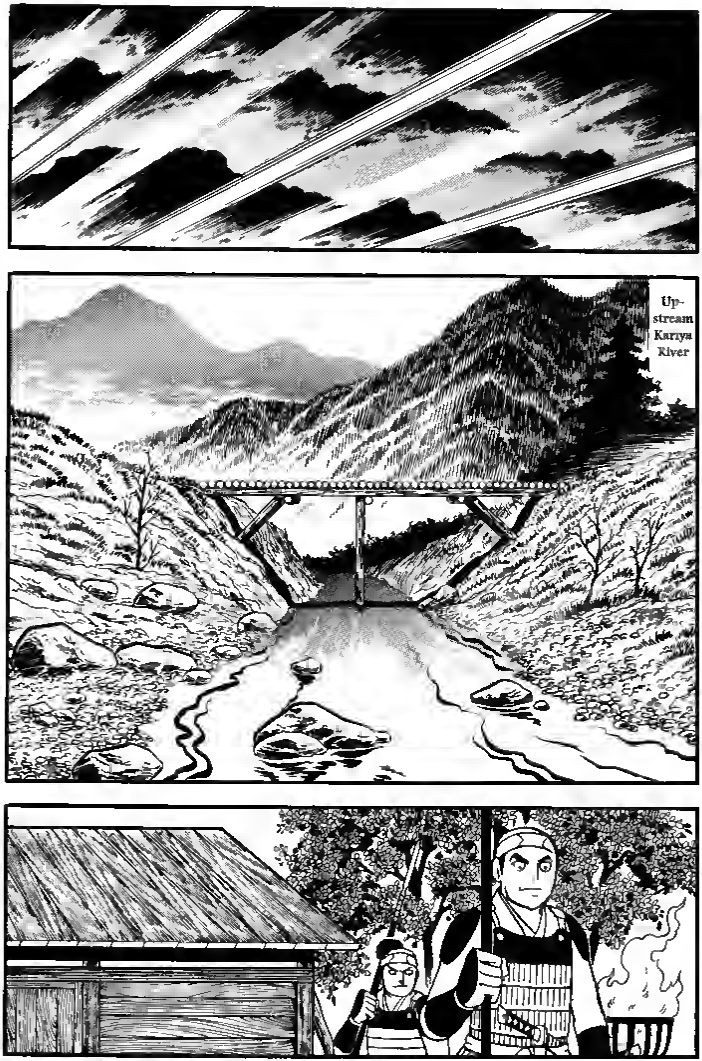

Takeda army's main camp


YES, MY LORD. I HAVE LIVED HERE A LONG TIME, SO I KNOW THE REGION...
SAKUBEI, YOU ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE KARIYA RIVER, ARE YOU NOT?

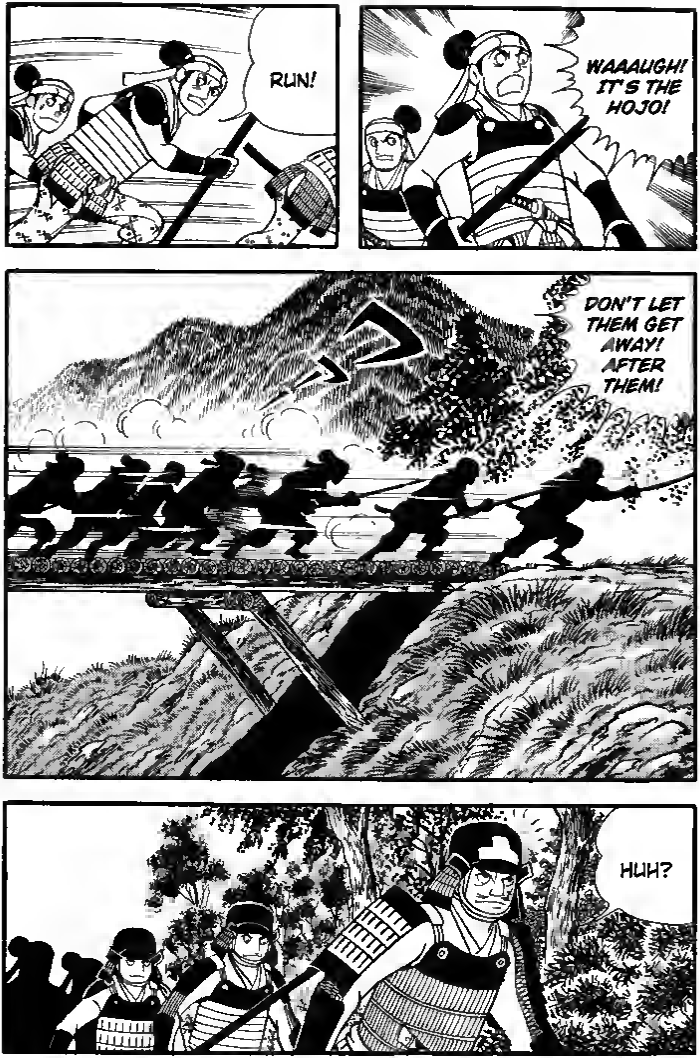
BUT...
THIS IS A DRY SEASON, SO YOU COULD FORD ANYWHERE IF YOU DO NOT MIND GETTING YOUR BOOTS WET.
WHERE DO YOU SUPPOSE A MASSIVE ARMY COULD CROSS THE RIVER WITHOUT RELYING ON THE BRIDGE?
BUT WHAT?
I SEE. YOU ARE SAYING IT IS TOO COLD TO DO A THING UPON RISING FROM THE RIVER?
IT IS STILL TOO COLD, SO YOUR HANDS AND LEGS WILL BE NUMB UPON RISING FROM THE RIVER.
WHAT WOULD I DO, YOU ASK?
WHAT EXACTLY WOULD YOU DO, IF YOU WERE HOJO UJIYASU?

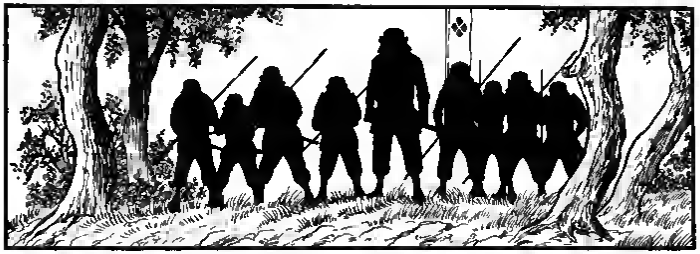
I WOULD GO SLIGHTLY OUT OF MY WAY AND CROSS THE BRIDGE UPSTREAM.
IF YOU WERE THE GENERAL, WHERE WOULD YOU FORD THE KARIYA RIVER?
YES, MY LORD.
WELL DONE. REWARD HIM.
YES, MY LORD!
THIS IS FROM THE MASTER. ACCEPT IT WITH GRATITUDE.

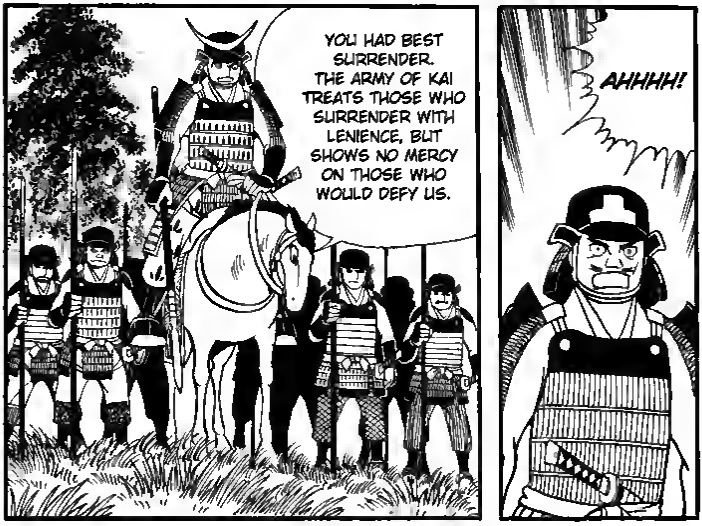

THE HOJO WILL SOON BE ATTACKING FROM THE PLACE SAKUBEI JUST MENTIONED. SEND OUT SPIES TO INVESTIGATE THE HOJO'S ACTIONS. ONCE THE ENEMY CROSSES THE BRIDGE, SEIZE THEM ALL!
Y-YES, MY LORD?
NO! SEIZE AS MANY AS YOU CAN!
SHOULD WE NOT SLAY THEM...?

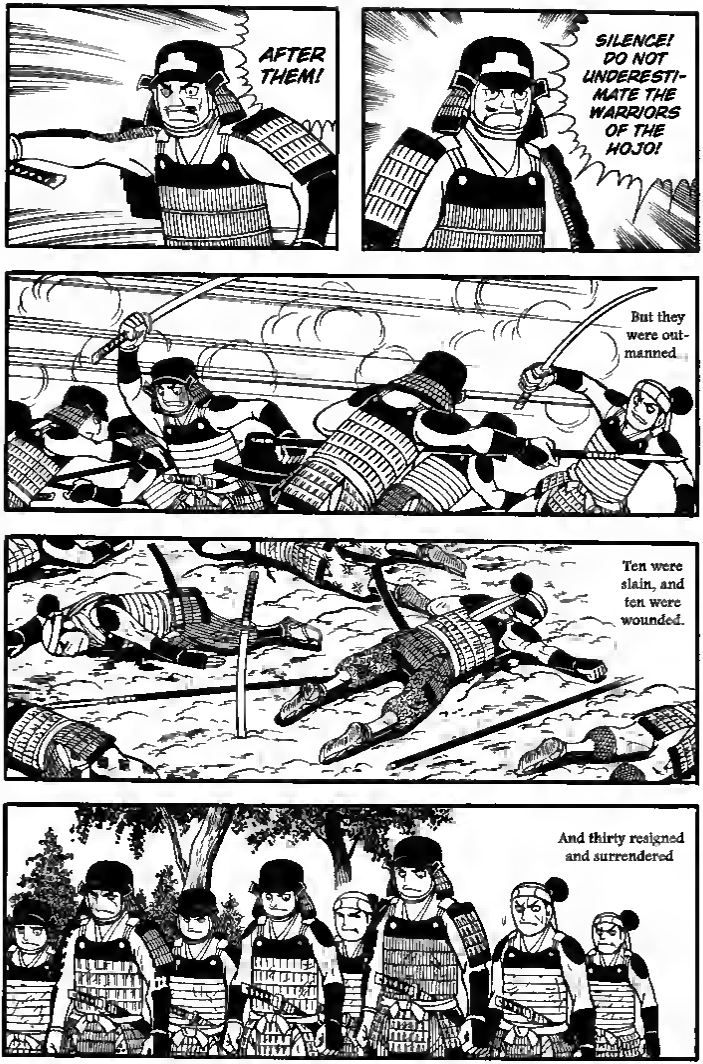

Up-
stream
Kariya
River

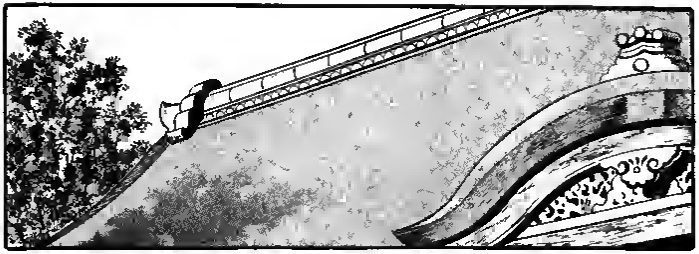
THERE ARE ABOUT TEN OF THEM.
THAT'S THE TAKEDA LOOKOUT.
The testing battle began when fifty retainers of the Hojo Army assaulted the lookout upstream on the Kariya River.
NOW! ATTACK!

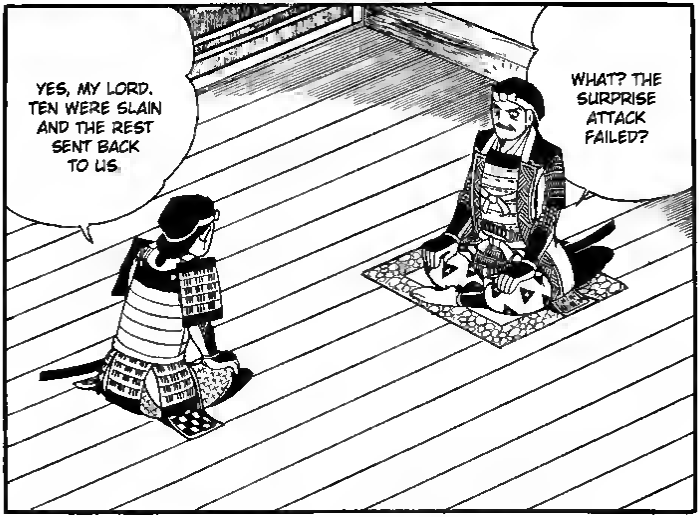

RUN!
WAAAUGH! IT'S THE HOJO!
DON'T LET THEM GET AWAY! AFTER THEM!
HUH?




YOU HAD BEST SURRENDER. THE ARMY OF KAI TREATS THOSE WHO SURRENDER WITH LENIENCE, BUT SHOWS NO MERCY ON THOSE WHO WOULD DEFY US.
AHHHH!


AFTER THEM!
SILENCE! DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE THE WARRIORS OF THE HOJO!
But they were outmanned.
Ten were slain, and ten were wounded.
And thirty resigned and surrendered

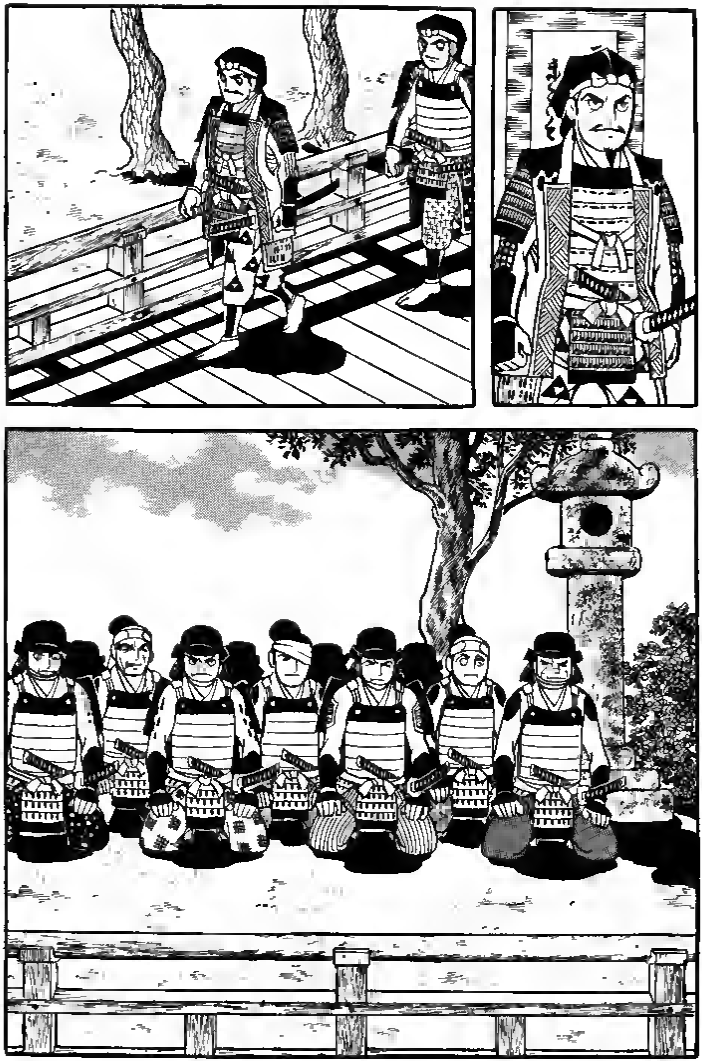



WHAT? THE SURPRISE ATTACK FAILED?
YES, MY LORD. TEN WERE SLAIN AND THE REST SENT BACK TO US.

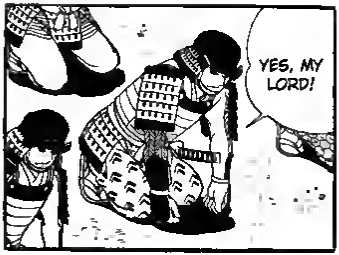
YES, MY LORD. THEY ALL APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN CAPTURED. THEY RETURNED WITH A LETTER FROM TAKEDA NOBUSHIGE.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, THEY WERE SENT BACK TO US?

HMMM...
HERE IT IS, MY LORD.
WHAT DOES IT SAY?
THESE FIFTY MEN WHO ATTACKED UPSTREAM ON THE KARIYA RIVER SERVED MOST EXCELLENTLY. NONE OF THOSE CAPTURED HAD ANY INTENT OF JOINING THE TAKEDA, SO WE HAVE SENT THEM BACK..
IN THE GARDEN, MY LORD.
WHERE ARE THEY?



YES, MY LORD. WE WERE ASSAULTING THEIR LOOKOUT, BUT THE KAI ARMY LAY IN WAIT FOR US, AS IF THEY ANTICIPATED OUR ARRIVAL.
HOW WERE YOU DETAINED? TELL ME IN FULL DETAIL.
WHAT THEN...?
WE FOUGHT BACK DESPERATELY, BUT WE WERE OUTNUMBERED AND WE WERE ALL CAPTURED.
I SEE.
THE KAI ARMY TENDED TO OUR WOUNDED, AND THEY SAID THEY WOULD SEND US BACK THIS TIME, BUT NOT THE NEXT.


YES, MY LORD!

VERY WELL, YOU MAY STAND DOWN.

STILL, IT SEEMS THE ENEMY SPIES ARE DEEP WITHIN OUR MIDST, TO KNOW EVEN THE ACTION OF A MERE FIFTY SOLDIERS.

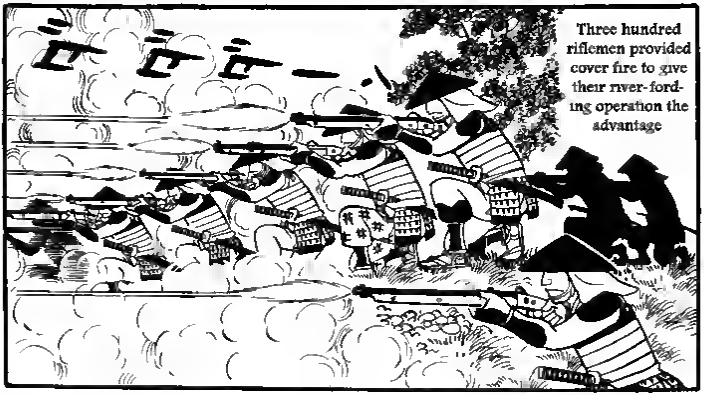
THEY TREATED OUR WOUNDED AND SENT THEM BACK? IT APPEARS THE KAI ARMY HAS NO INTENT TO FIGHT US.

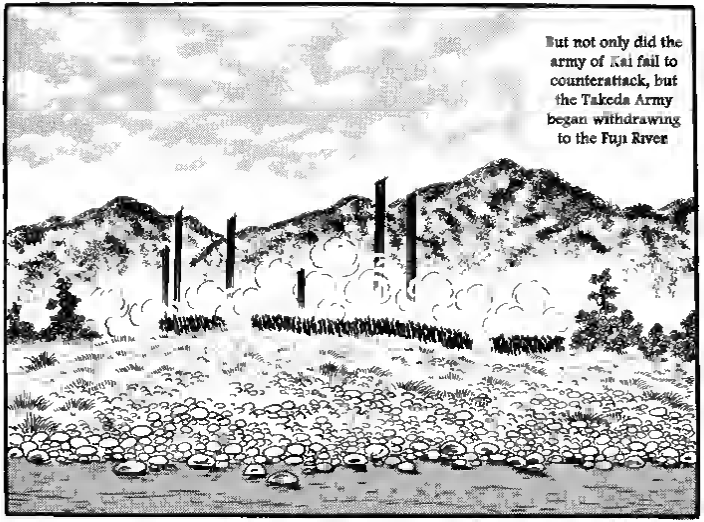
TAKEDA NOBUSHIGE MIGHT JUST BE A GENERAL TO RIVAL HARUNOBU.

IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE TAKEDA HAVE SENT MANY SPIES INTO OUR CAMP. I FEAR THAT IF WE CONTINUE OUR CLEVER PLANS, WE WILL ONLY BE INCREASING OUR DAMAGES.

MY LORD, THE TAKEDA ARMY NUMBERS ONE THOUSAND AND THREE HUNDRED, WHILE THE IMAGAWA'S GARRISON NUMBERS ROUGHLY SEVEN HUNDRED, WITH MAYBE TWO THOUSAND IN ALL. MEANWHILE WE POSSESS THREE THOUSAND WE ARE SUPERIOR IN TERMS OF NUMBERS.
YES, OF COURSE.
AND IF THE ENEMY DOES NOT SERIOUSLY INTEND TO DO BATTLE, I BELIEVE THE BEST PLAN IS TO TAKE THEM BY FORCE...
YES, MY LORD.
VERY WELL WE SHALL ASSAULT THEM BY FORCE.

A few days later, the Hojo Army began their river-fording operation.

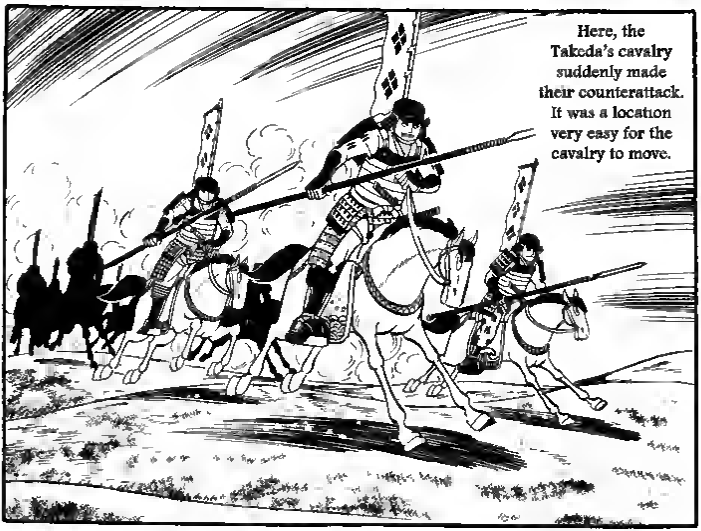

Three hundred riflemen provided cover fire to give their river-fording operation the advantage

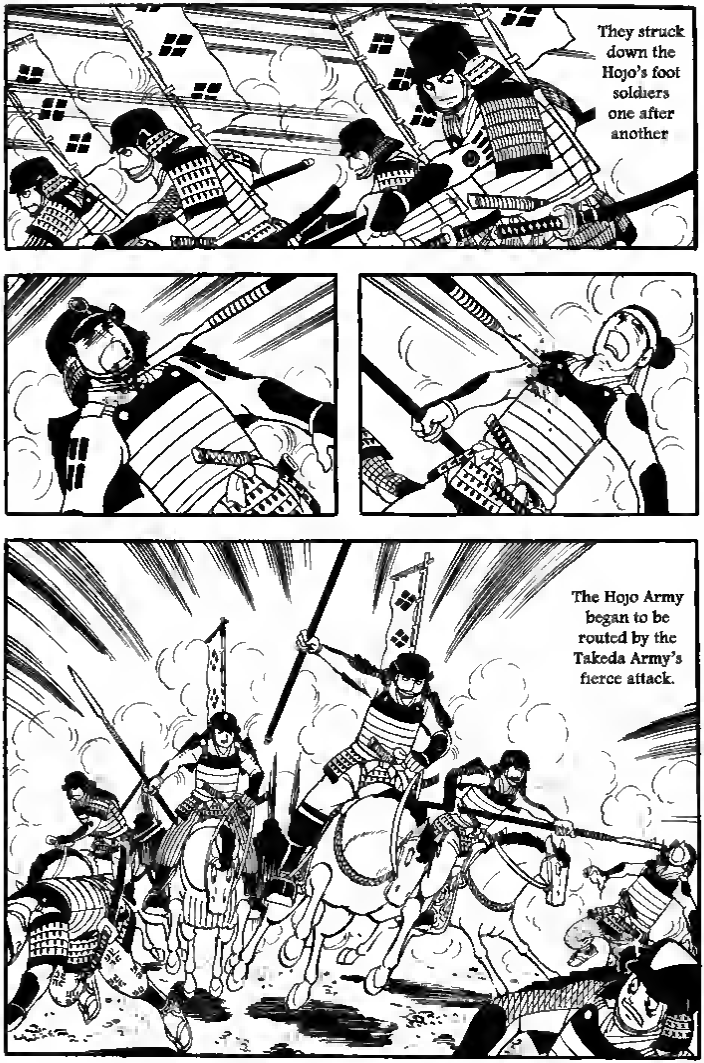

But not only did the army of Kai fail to counterattack, but the Takeda Army began withdrawing to the Fuji River

LOOK! THE TAKEDA ARMY IS RUNNING! THEY DID NOT INTEND TO FIGHT AT ALL! QUICKLY, AFTER THEM!

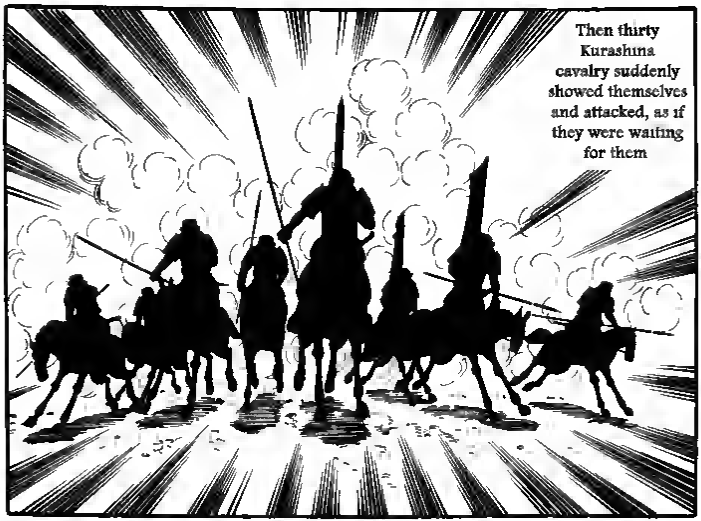
The Hojo Army had begun their pursuit.

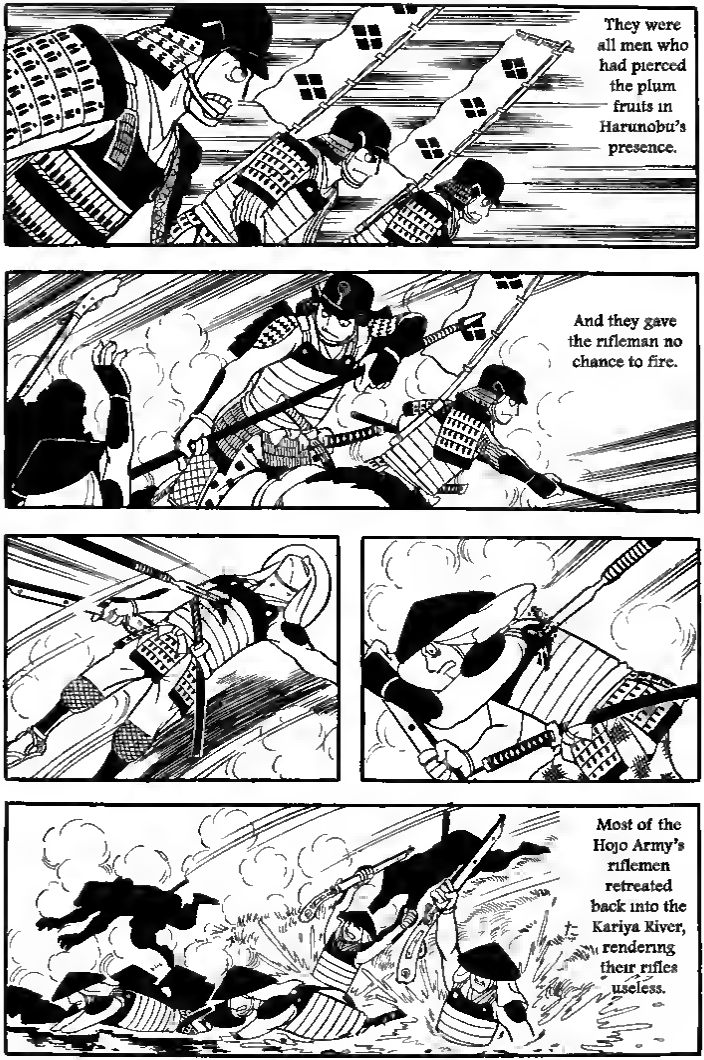
There was a wide sandy beach at Tagonoura.

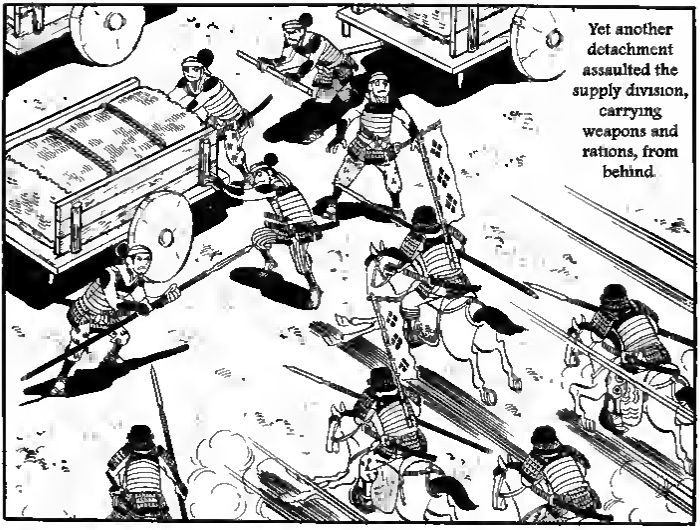

Here, the Takeda's cavalry suddenly made their counterattack. It was a location very easy for the cavalry to move.


They struck down the Hojo's foot soldiers one after another
The Hojo Army began to be routed by the Takeda Army's fierce attack.

The Hojo Army's riflemen crossed the Kariya River last


Then thirty Kurashina cavalry suddenly showed themselves and attacked, as if they were waiting for them


They were all men who had pierced the plum fruits in Harunobu's presence.
And they gave the rifleman no chance to fire.
Most of the Hojo Army's riflemen retreated back into the Kariya River, rendering their rifles useless.


Yet another detachment assaulted the supply division, carrying weapons and rations, from behind.

The Hojo Army quickly fell into a panic, as they were beset by the Takeda Army on all sides.

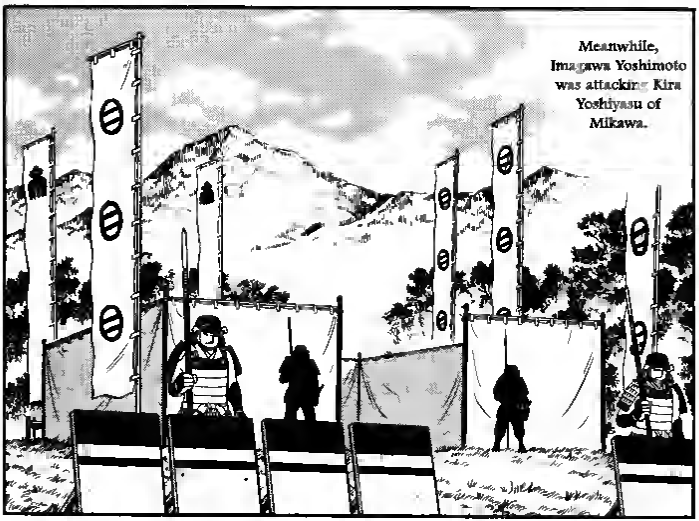
HOW COULD THIS BE? I NEVER KNEW NOBUSHIGE WAS THIS CLEVER!
MY LORD! OUR FORCES ARE IN PANIC! I BELIEVE WE SHOULD FALL BACK AND REGROUP!
HE MUST HAVE FEIGNED THAT HE WAS STILL IN KOFU, TO SET ME OFF-GUARD AND KEEP NAGAO KAGETORA AT BAY!
WAIT! WHAT IF NOBUSHIGE IS THE COMMANDER, BUT HARUNOBU HAS ACTUALLY COME HIMSELF...?
FALL BACK! FALL BACK!

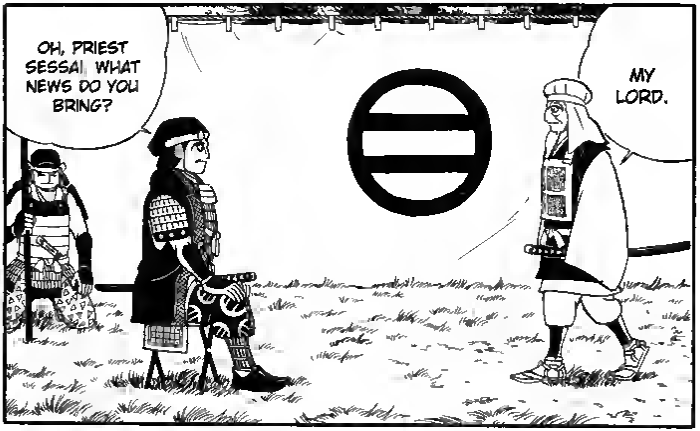
TAKEDA SHINGEN

TRANSLATED BY SYSTEMATICCHAOS
PROOFING BY ANGELOFCHAOTIX
EDITING BY HIGHTIDE
QC BY KAZUHIKO

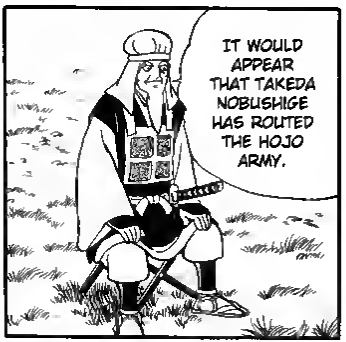
CHAPTER 36

Chapter 37: Alliance of Three Provinces




OH, PRIEST SESSAI. WHAT NEWS DO YOU BRING?
MY LORD.

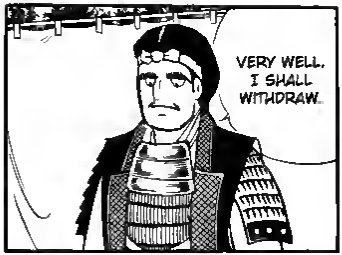
OH? I SEE THAT NOBUSHIGE HAS SOME METTLE AFTER ALL.


IT WOULD APPEAR THAT TAKEDA NOBUSHIGE HAS ROUTED THE HOJO ARMY.

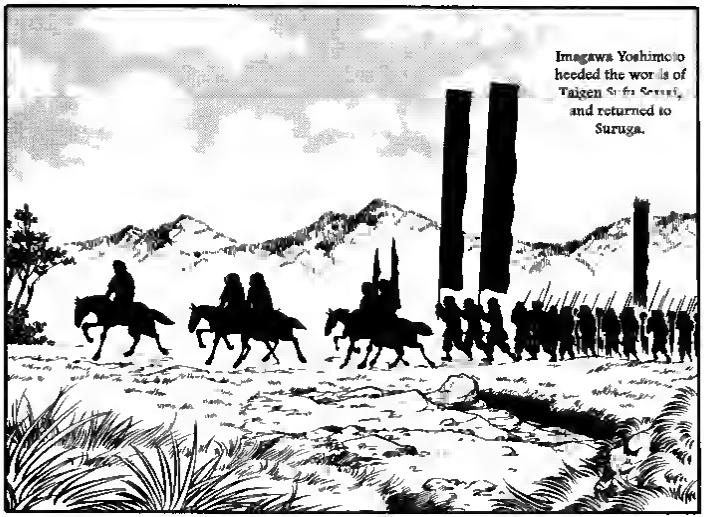
WHAT?
AND WE HAVE WIND OF A RUMOR THAT HOJO UJIYASU IS GOING TO SUMMON AN EVEN GREATER ARMY TO SUNPU.
I AM TRYING TO STRIKE THE INFERNAL ODA AND MAKE MY WAY WEST AT ONCE, BUT THAT GODDAMNED UJIYASU KEEPS INTERFERING!
BUT IF YOU THINK OF IT, THIS IS THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY.
ARE YOU SAYING THIS MIGHT BE OUR CHANCE TO DEFEAT THE HOJO?
NO, NOT THAT. BUT IT IS QUITE RARE FOR THE GENERALS OF SUNPU, SAGAMI, AND KAI TO BE PRESENT IN ONE PLACE.
YOU SAY THREE GENERALS, BUT HARUNOBU IS NOT HERE.

OH, BUT HE IS HERE. NO ONE BUT LORD HARUNOBU COULD HAVE AMBUSHED AND ROUTED THE HOJO ARMY SO.
FROM WHAT I HAVE HEARD, LORD HARUNOBU HAS BEEN USING A BODY DOUBLE. I AM SURE IT IS THAT BODY DOUBLE THAT IS IN KOFU NOW...
LORD HARUNOBU HAS TO PREPARE AGAINST LORD KAGEO NAGATORA OF ECHIGO. THAT IS WHY HE APPOINTED LORD NOBUSHIGE AS COMMANDER.
MY LORD, WHY DO WE NOT USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO FORGE AN ALLIANCE BETWEEN OUR THREE PROVINCES?
YES, MY LORD. THE IMAGAWA CLAN HAS A FOE TO THE WEST, THE TAKEDA CLAN HAS A FOE TO THE NORTH, AND THE HOJO CLAN HAS NOT YET FINISHED CONQUERING KANTO. THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO BE FIGHTING EACH OTHER.
AN ALLIANCE OF THREE PROVINCES ?

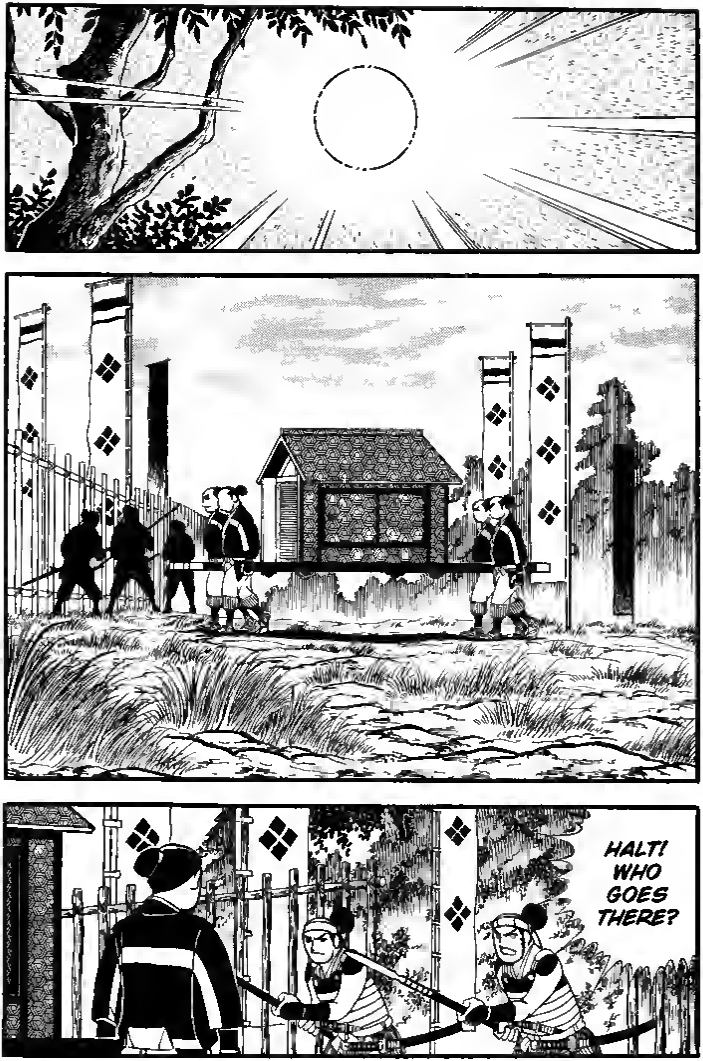
THE IMAGAWA CLAN AND THE TAKEDA CLAN HAVE JUST BECOME ALLIED PROVINCES THROUGH MARRIAGE LAST YEAR, BUT THIS TIME, WE SHOULD FORM MARRIAGES BETWEEN THE IMAGAWA CLAN AND THE HOJO CLAN, AND BETWEEN THE TAKEDA CLAN AND THE HOJO CLAN, AND FORM AN ALLIANCE OF THREE PROVINCES.
EACH OF YOU HAS AN INTEREST IN DOING SO. I BELIEVE IT WILL GO WELL.
DO YOU BELIEVE IT WILL BE THAT SIMPLE?
BUT WHAT OF KIRA YOSHIYASU?
WITH THE ALLIANCE FORMED, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO CONCENTRATE ON THE ODA ALONE, WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT THE HOJO. THEN WITH THE ODA GONE, YOU CAN PROCEED TO THE CAPITAL, AND THE NATION WILL BE YOURS .. WE MUST MAKE HASTE AND WITHDRAW, SO WE CAN HOLD THIS CONFERENCE.

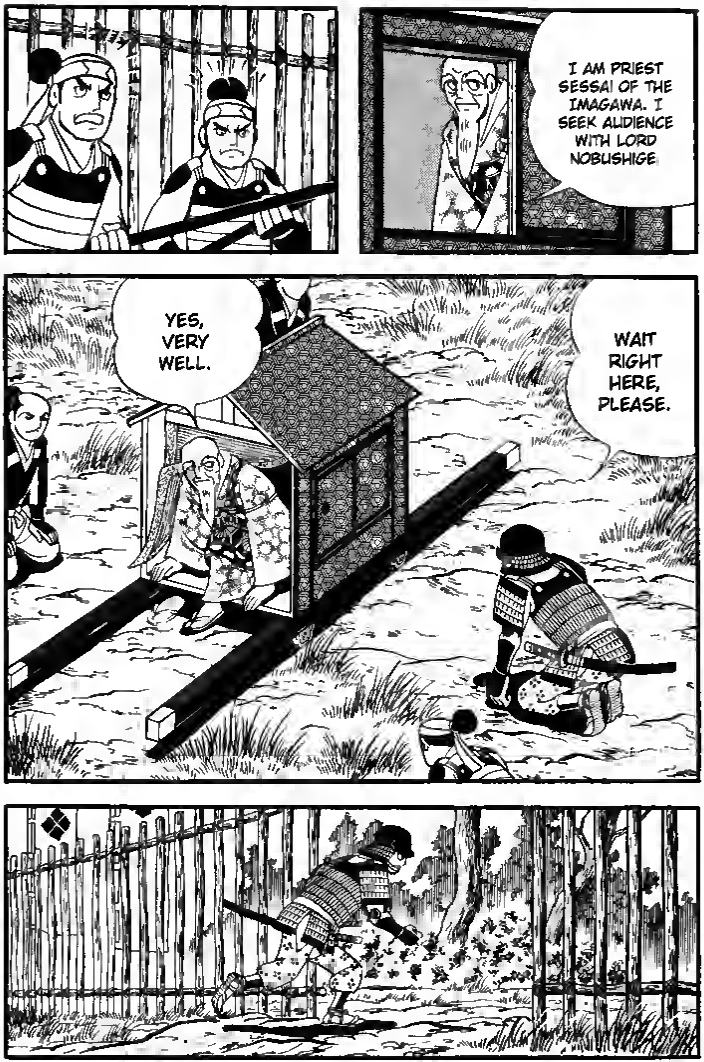

VERY WELL. I SHALL WITHDRAW.

YOU CAN DESTROY KIRA WHENEVER YOU CHOOSE.

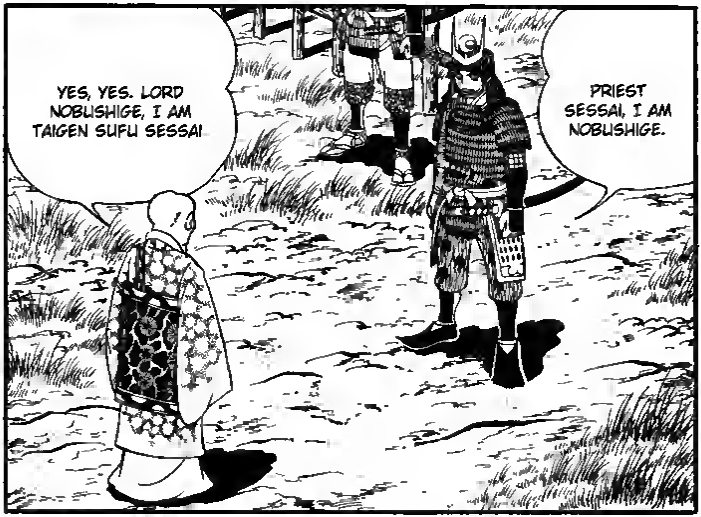

Imagawa Yoshimoto heeded the words of Taigen Sufu Sessai, and returned to Suruga.

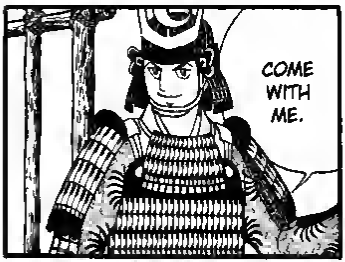
He would later become the founder of Rinzai Temple on Mt Dairyu, and Tokugawa Ieyasu's teacher during his youth.
Taigen Sufu Sessai
Monk though he was, he served as Imagawa Yoshimoto's general


HALT! WHO GOES THERE?

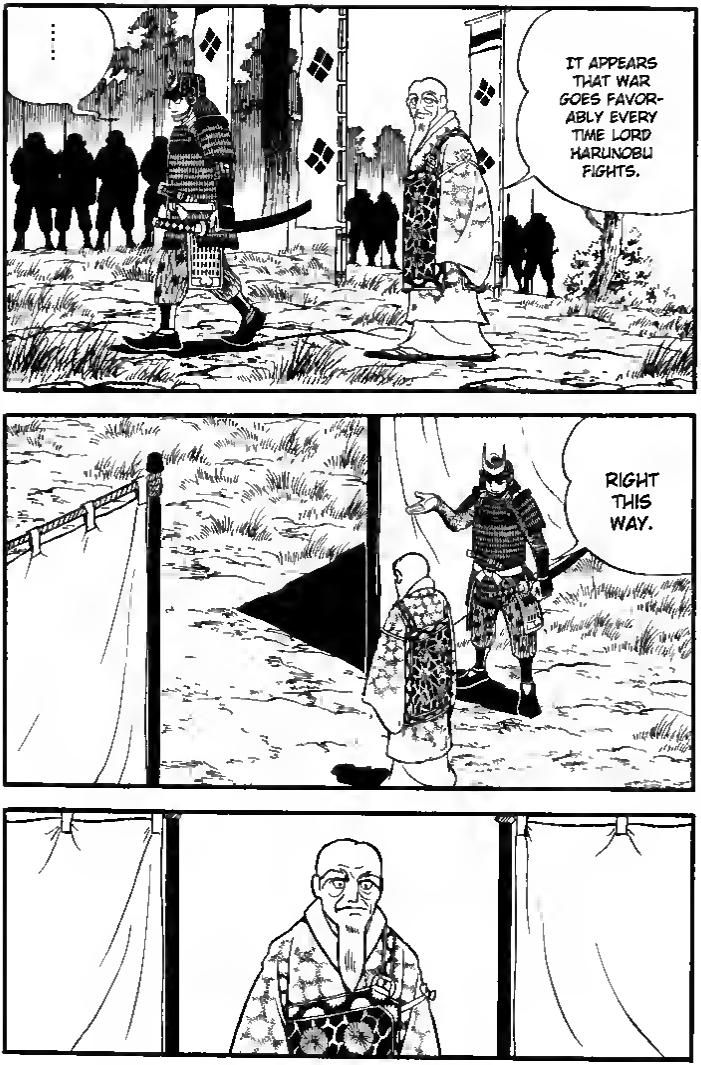

I AM PRIEST SESSAI OF THE IMAGAWA. I SEEK AUDIENCE WITH LORD NOBUSHIGE.
WAIT RIGHT HERE, PLEASE.
YES, VERY WELL.

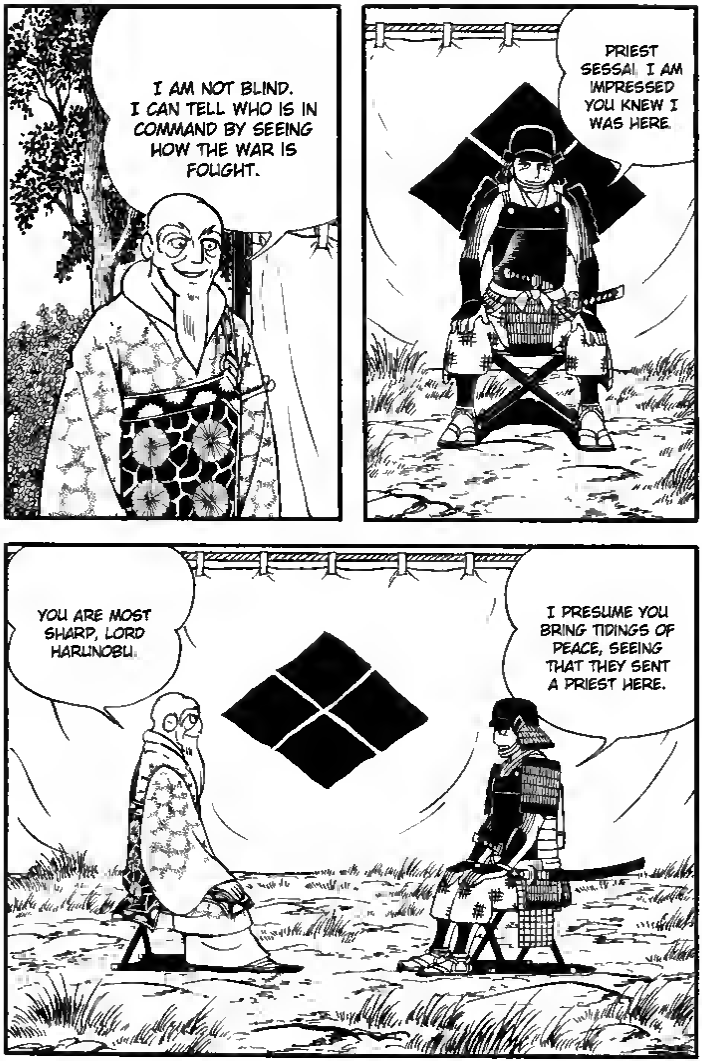
OHH, THIS IS QUITE THE FINE GARRISON!

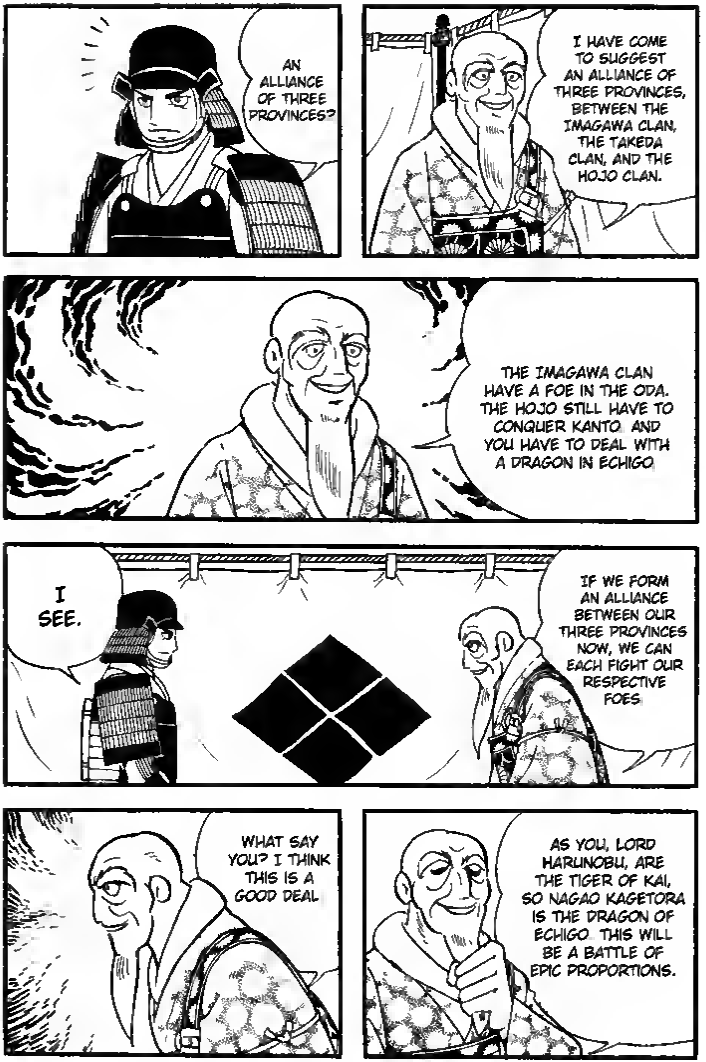

YES, YES. LORD NOBUSHIGE, I AM TAIGEN SUFU SESSAI
PRIEST SESSAI, I AM NOBUSHIGE.

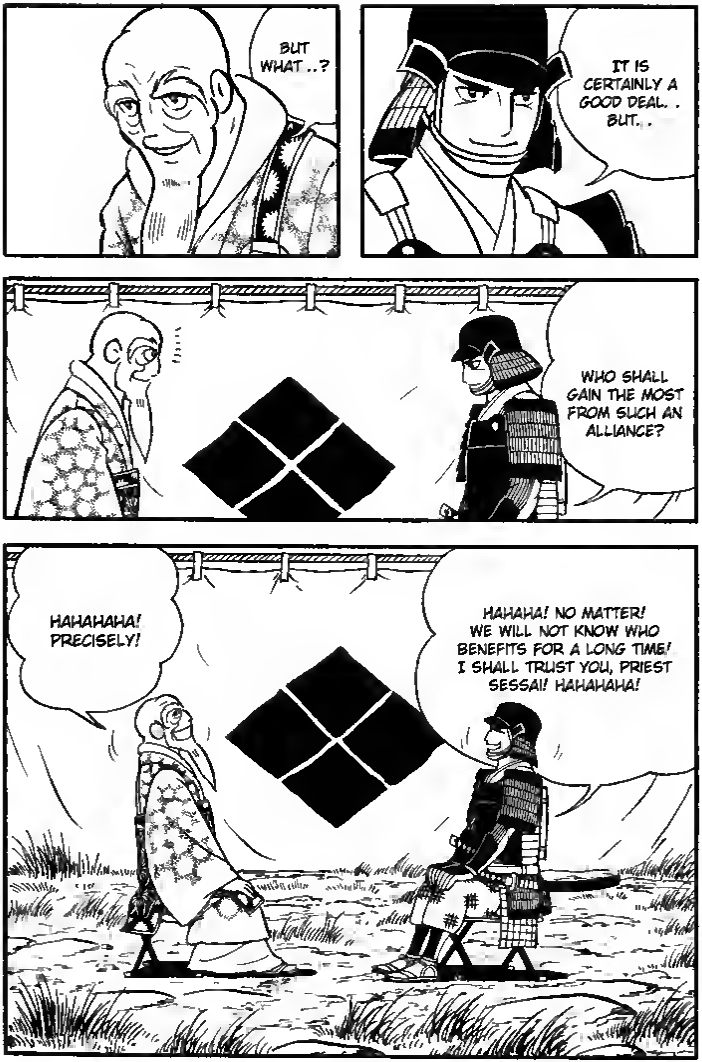

COME WITH ME.

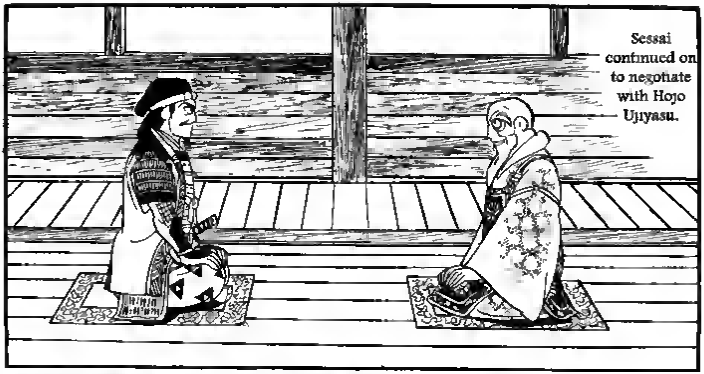
I COME WITH A CRUCIAL MATTER TO DISCUSS... WILL YOU LET ME SEE LORD HARUNOBU?

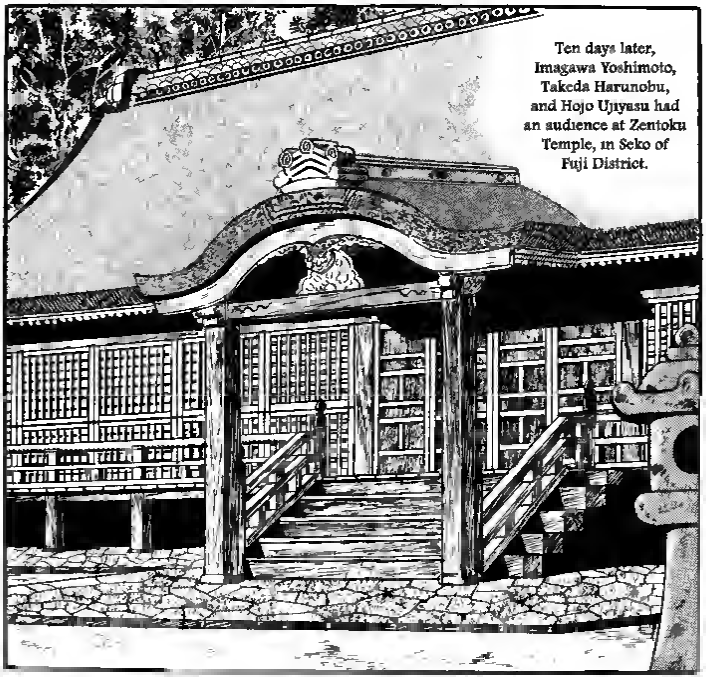

.....
IT APPEARS THAT WAR GOES FAVORABLY EVERY TIME LORD HARUNOBU FIGHTS.
RIGHT THIS WAY.

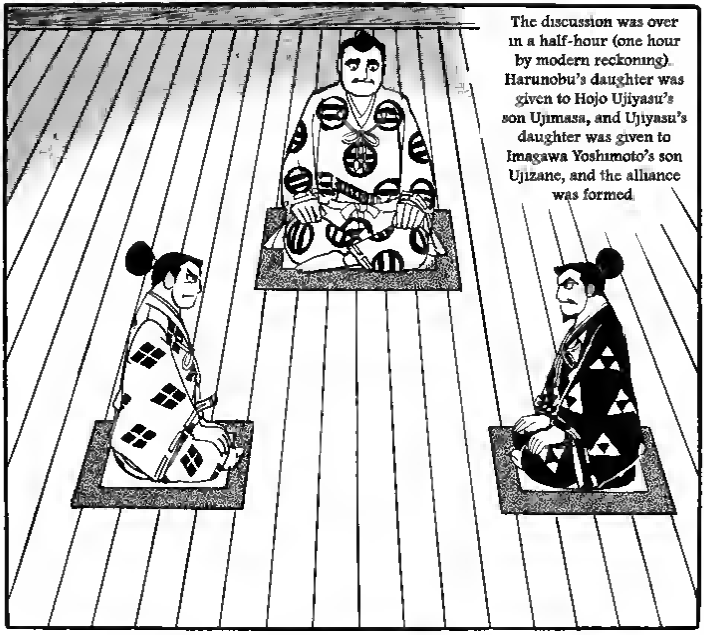

I AM NOT BLIND. I CAN TELL WHO IS IN COMMAND BY SEEING HOW THE WAR IS FOUGHT.
PRIEST SESSAI. I AM IMPRESSED YOU KNEW I WAS HERE.
YOU ARE MOST SHARP, LORD HARUNOBU.
I PRESUME YOU BRING TIDINGS OF PEACE, SEEING THAT THEY SENT A PRIEST HERE.

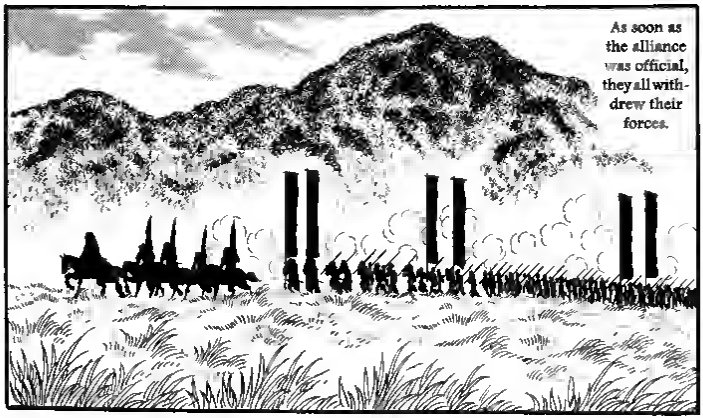

AN ALLIANCE OF THREE PROVINCES?
I HAVE COME TO SUGGEST AN ALLIANCE OF THREE PROVINCES, BETWEEN THE IMAGAWA CLAN, THE TAKEDA CLAN, AND THE HOJO CLAN.
THE IMAGAWA CLAN HAVE A FOE IN THE ODA. THE HOJO STILL HAVE TO CONQUER KANTO. AND YOU HAVE TO DEAL WITH A DRAGON IN ECHIGO.
I SEE.
IF WE FORM AN ALLIANCE BETWEEN OUR THREE PROVINCES NOW, WE CAN EACH FIGHT OUR RESPECTIVE FOES.
WHAT SAY YOU? I THINK THIS IS A GOOD DEAL.
AS YOU, LORD HARUNOBU, ARE THE TIGER OF KAI, SO NAGAO KAGETORA IS THE DRAGON OF ECHIGO. THIS WILL BE A BATTLE OF EPIC PROPORTIONS.


BUT WHAT..?
IT IS CERTAINLY A GOOD DEAL.. BUT..
WHO SHALL GAIN THE MOST FROM SUCH AN ALLIANCE?
HAHAHAHA! PRECISELY!
HAHAHA! NO MATTER! WE WILL NOT KNOW WHO BENEFITS FOR A LONG TIME! I SHALL TRUST YOU, PRIEST SESSA!! HAHAHAHA!

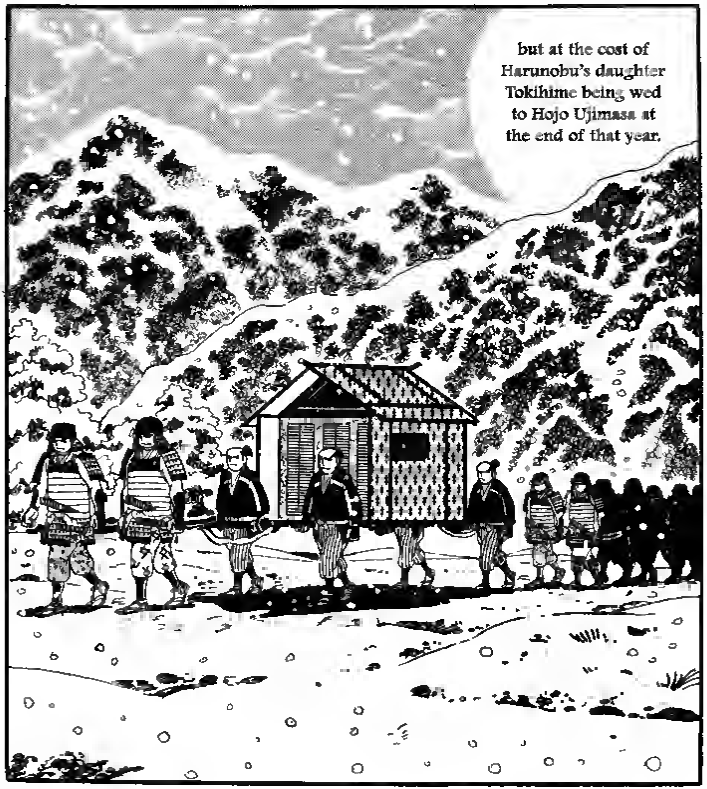

Sessai continued on to negotiate with Hojo Ujiyasu.


Ten days later, Imagawa Yoshimoto, Takeda Harunobu, and Hojo Ujiyasu had an audience at Zentoku Temple, in Seko of Fuji District.


The discussion was over in a half-hour (one hour by modern reckoning). Harunobu's daughter was given to Hojo Ujiyasu's son Ujimasa, and Ujiyasu's daughter was given to Imagawa Yoshimoto's son Ujizane, and the alliance was formed.


As soon as the alliance was official, they all withdrew their forces.

Now Harunobu could focus on the Echigo Army at ease,

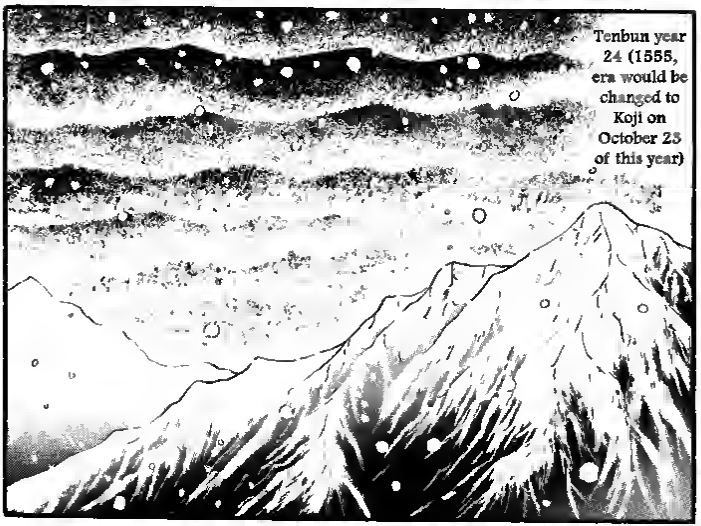

but at the cost of Harunobu's daughter Tokihime being wed to Hojo Ujimasa at the end of that year.

TAKEDA SHINGEN

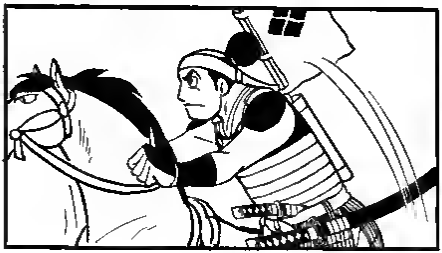
TRANSLATED BY SYSTEMATICCHAOS
PROOFING BY ANGELOFCHAOTIX
EDITING BY HIGHTIDE
QC BY KAZUHIKO

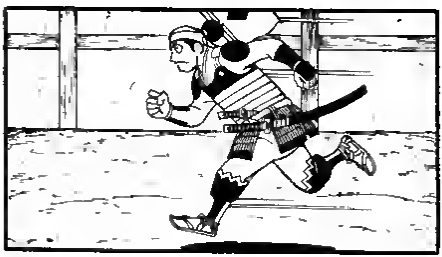
CHAPTER 37

Chapter 38: The Second Battle of Kawanakajima

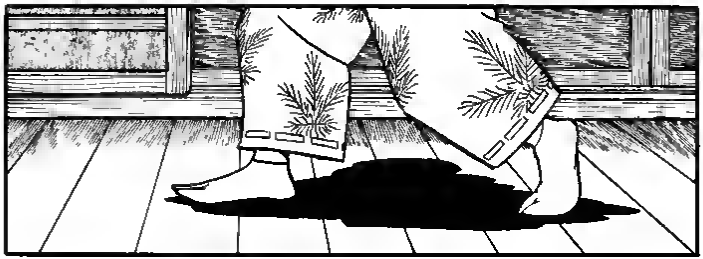


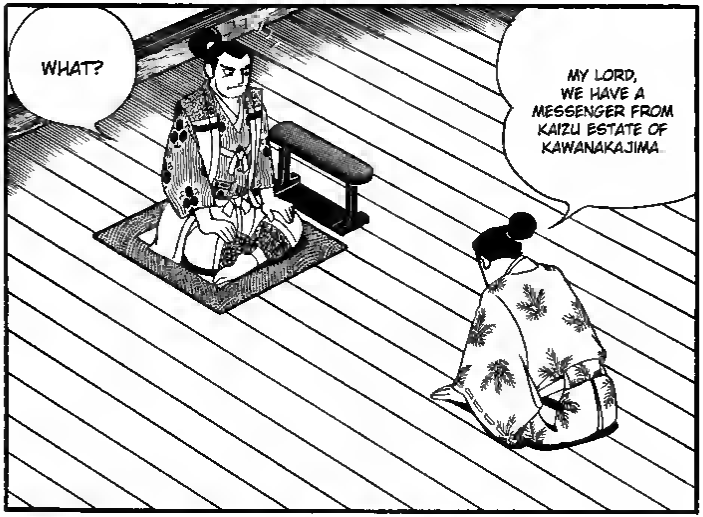
MY LORD, WHAT WORD FROM YAMAMOTO KANSUKE?
HE HAS TOLD ME THAT NAGAO KAGETORA IS WAITING FOR THE THAW TO INVADE SHINANO
KANSUKE TOLD ME HE HAS KAGETORA'S TRUST AS A RIFLE DEALER. I DO NOT DOUBT HIS INFORMATION.
THEN WE MUST PREPARE OURSELVES.





March
27

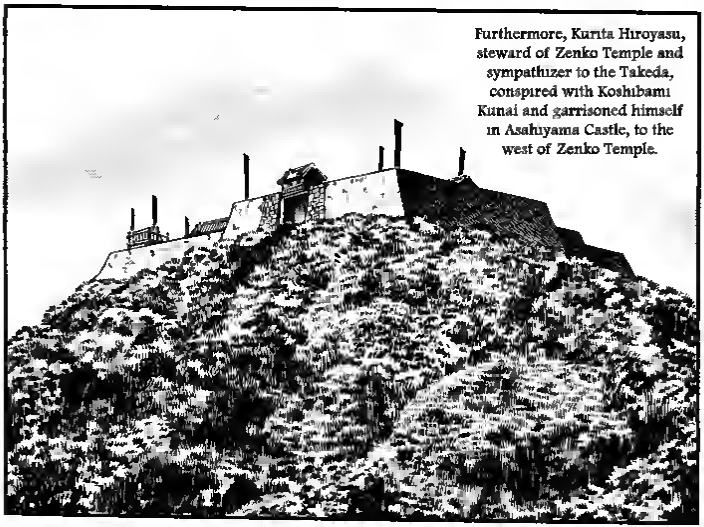


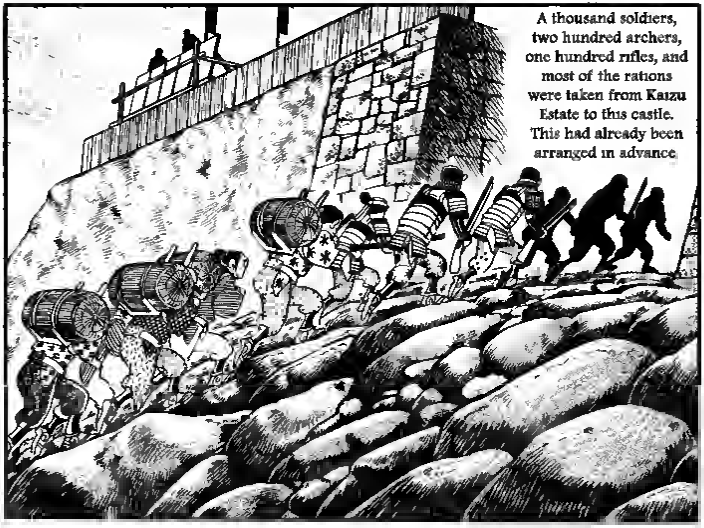

WHAT?
MY LORD, WE HAVE A MESSENGER FROM KAIZU ESTATE OF KAWANAKAJIMA

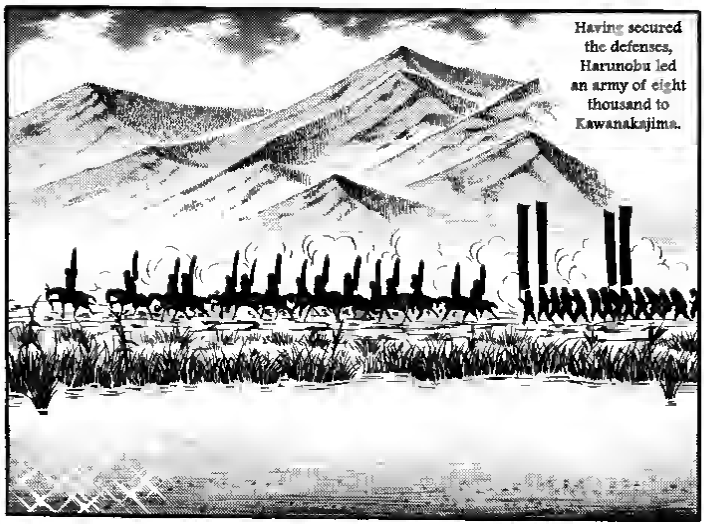
Kaizu Estate was an advance base defended by the four generals Oyamada Ficchu Masatoki, Ichikawa Bain, Hara Yozaemon, and Kasuga Danjo

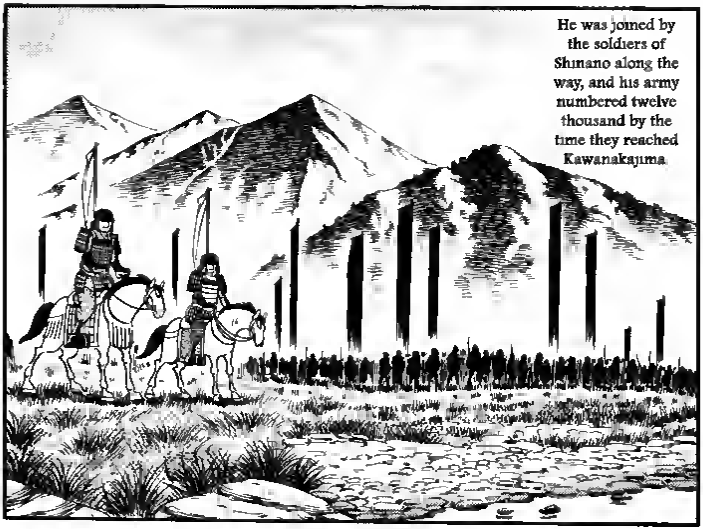
MY LORD, NAGAO KAGETORA HAS DEPARTED FROM KASUGAYAMA CASTLE ON MARCH 24TH, AND IS HEADING FOR TOMIKURA PASS (IYAMAGUCHI) WITH EIGHT THOUSAND ELITE SOLDIERS
WHAT IS IT?
YES, MY LORD.
I SEE. EXCELLENT WORK.
YES, MY LORD.
SO HE IS FINALLY ON THE MOVE. WITH EIGHT THOUSAND SOLDIERS OF ECHIGO, HE WILL HAVE OVER TEN THOUSAND, INCLUDING SOLDIERS FROM INNER SHINANO.

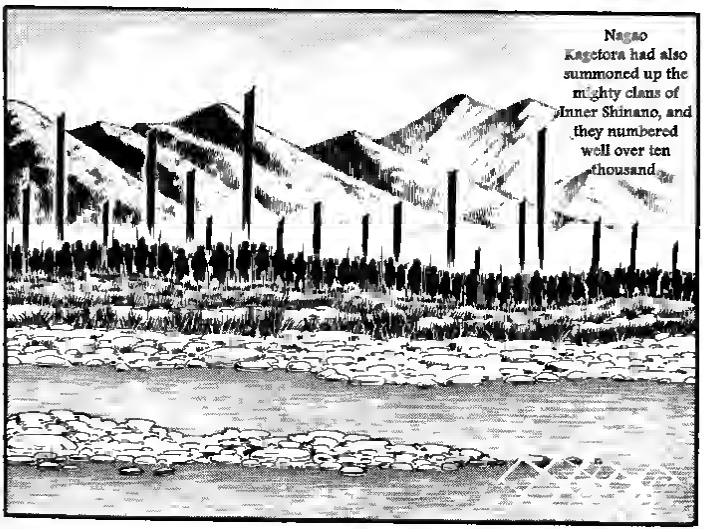
The Centipedes were sent in all directions at once.

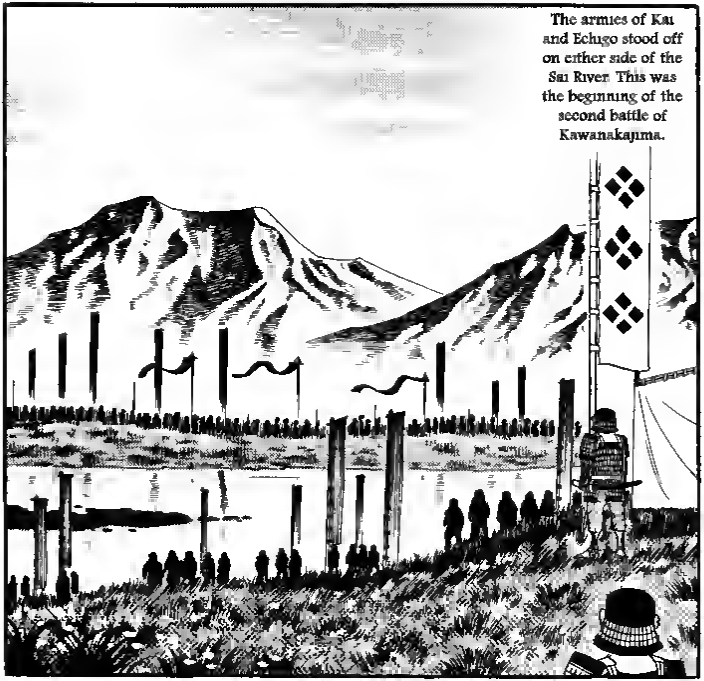

Furthermore, Kurita Hiroyasu, steward of Zenko Temple and sympathizer to the Takeda, conspired with Koshibami Kunai and garrisoned himself in Asahiyama Castle, to the west of Zenko Temple.

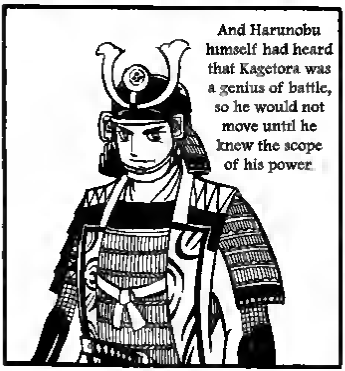

A thousand soldiers, two hundred archers, one hundred rifles, and most of the rations were taken from Kaizu Estate to this castle. This had already been arranged in advance.

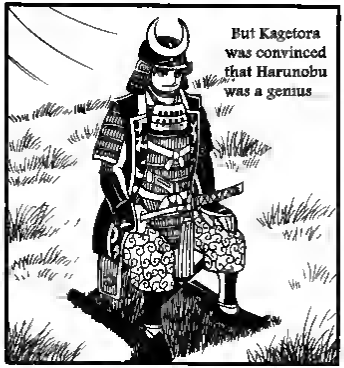

Having secured the defenses, Harunobu led an army of eight thousand to Kawanakajima.

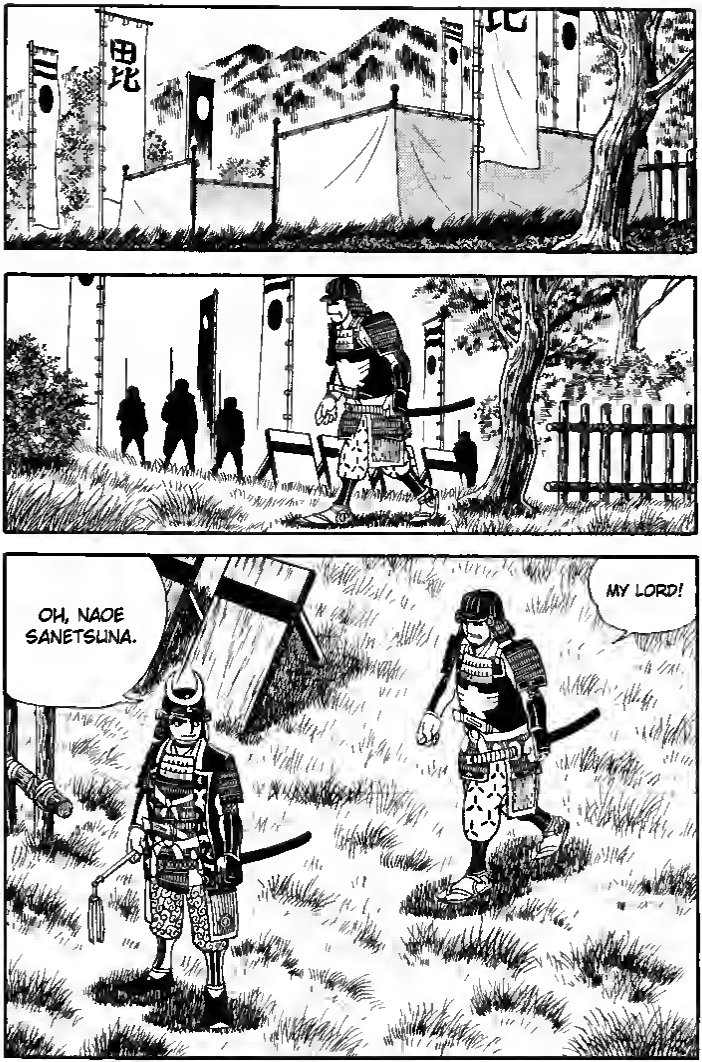

He was joined by the soldiers of Shinano along the way, and his army numbered twelve thousand by the time they reached Kawanakajima.


Nagao Kagetora had also summoned up the mighty clans of Inner Shinano, and they numbered well over ten thousand.


The armies of Kai and Echigo stood off on either side of the Sai River. This was the beginning of the second battle of Kawanakajima.

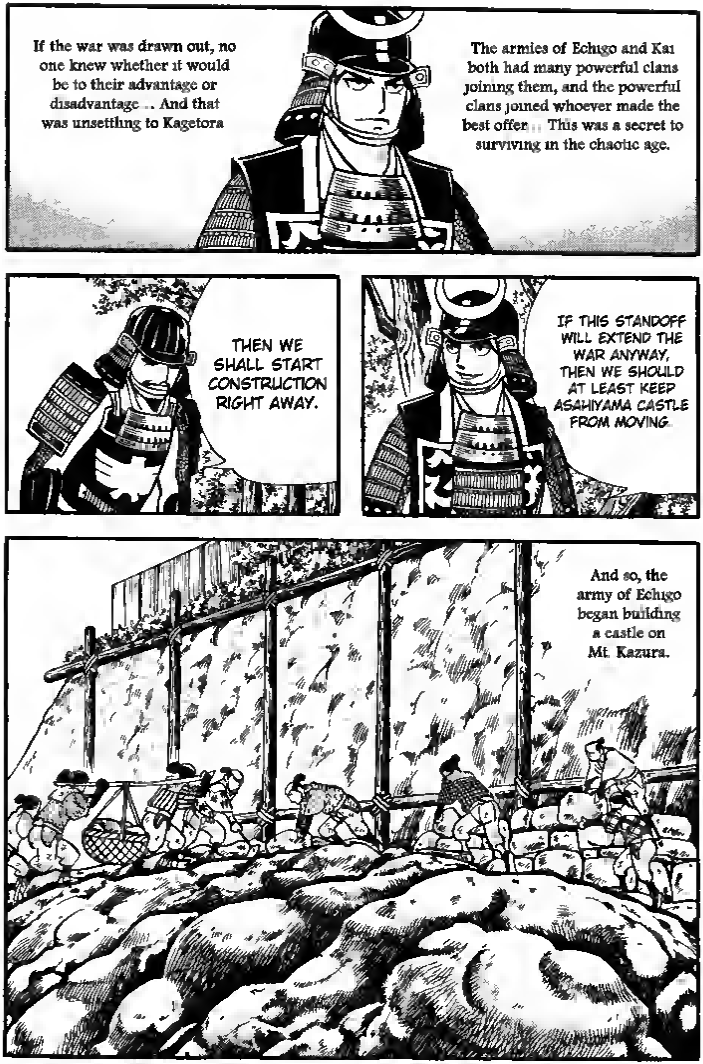

And Harunobu himself had heard that Kagetora was a genius of battle, so he would not move until he knew the scope of his power.

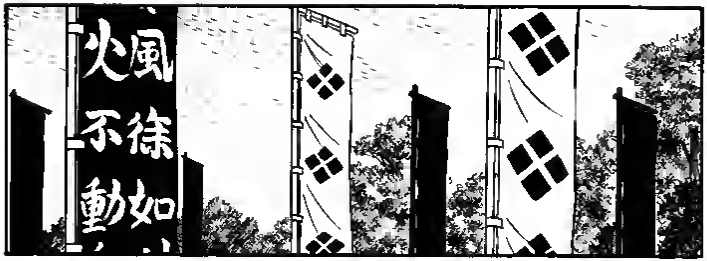

But Kagetora was convinced that Harunobu was a genius.

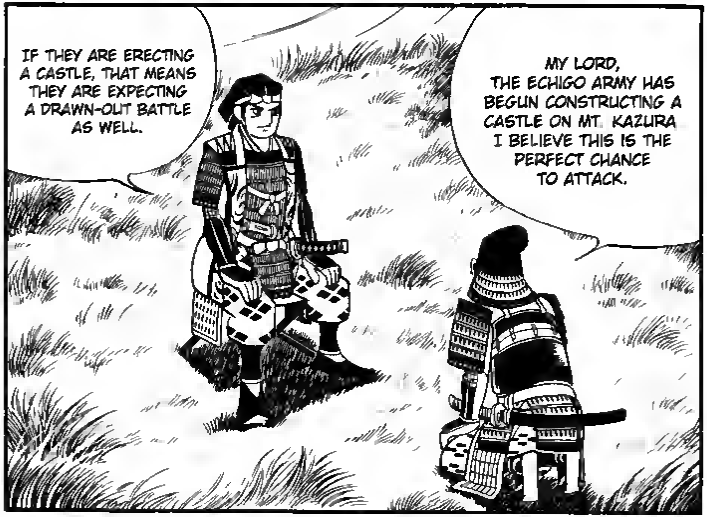

OH, NAOE SANETSUNA.
MY LORD!

ARE YOU SUGGESTING I CROSS THE SAI RIVER AND CLASH WITH THE TAKEDA?
HOW LONG DO YOU INTEND TO CONTINUE THIS STANDOFF?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, THAT IS NOT ALL?
OUR FORCES ARE EQUAL, WHICH MEANS THAT BOTH OF US WILL INCUR SIMILAR LOSSES, AND THE BATTLE WILL BE UNDECIDED. BUT THAT IS NOT ALL.
TAKE A LOOK AT ASAHIYAMA CASTLE.

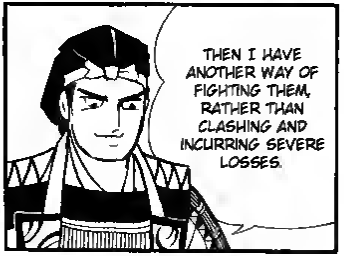
IF WE CROSS THE SAI RIVER AND FACE THE KAI ARMY, THE CASTLE SOLDIERS WILL ASSAULT US FROM BEHIND. THEN OUR ARMY WILL INCUR SEVERE LOSSES.
WHAT? BUILD A CASTLE?
THAT IS WHAT WE FEAR, AS WELL. WHAT DO YOU SAY WE BUILD A CASTLE ON MT. KAZURA TO OPPOSE THAT CASTLE?
BUT THIS STANDOFF IS ALREADY PROLONGING THE WAR.
THAT WILL INDEED DEFEND US FROM ASAHIYAMA CASTLE'S ATTACKS FROM BEHIND. BUT BUILDING A CASTLE WILL DRAW OUT THE WAR.

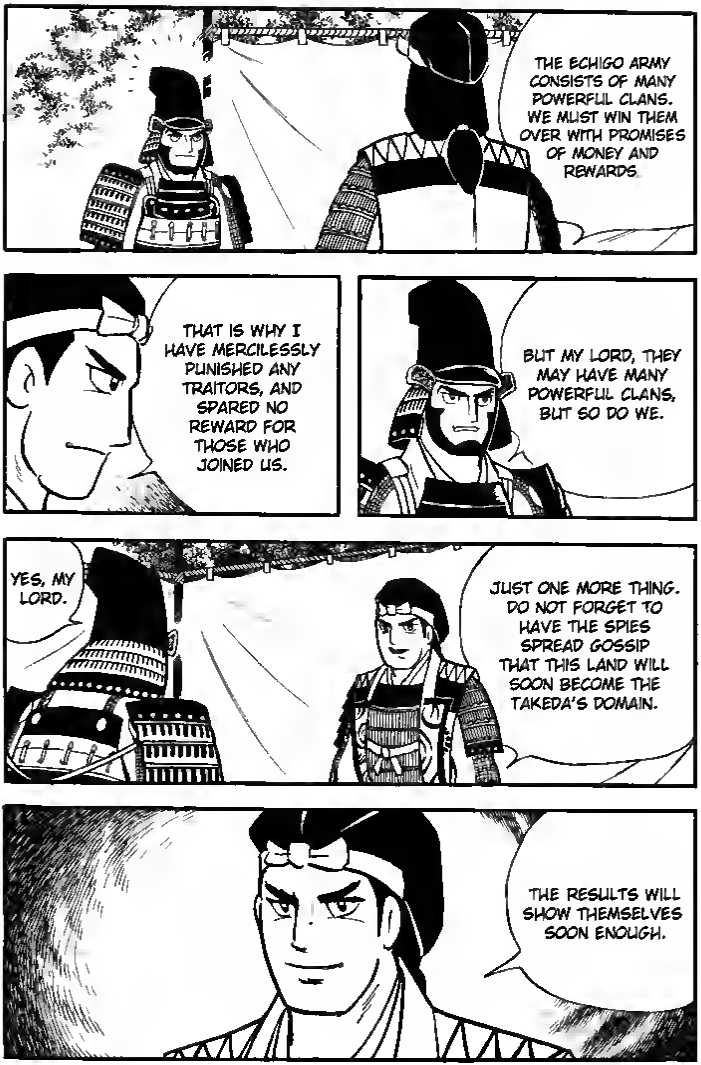

If the war was drawn out, no one knew whether it would be to their advantage or disadvantage ... And that was unsettling to Kagetora
The armies of Echigo and Kai both had many powerful clans joining them, and the powerful clans joined whoever made the best offer ... This was a secret to surviving in the chaotic age.
THEN WE SHALL START CONSTRUCTION RIGHT AWAY.
IF THIS STANDOFF WILL EXTEND THE WAR ANYWAY, THEN WE SHOULD AT LEAST KEEP ASAHIYAMA CASTLE FROM MOVING.
And so, the army of Echigo began building a castle on Mt. Kazura.

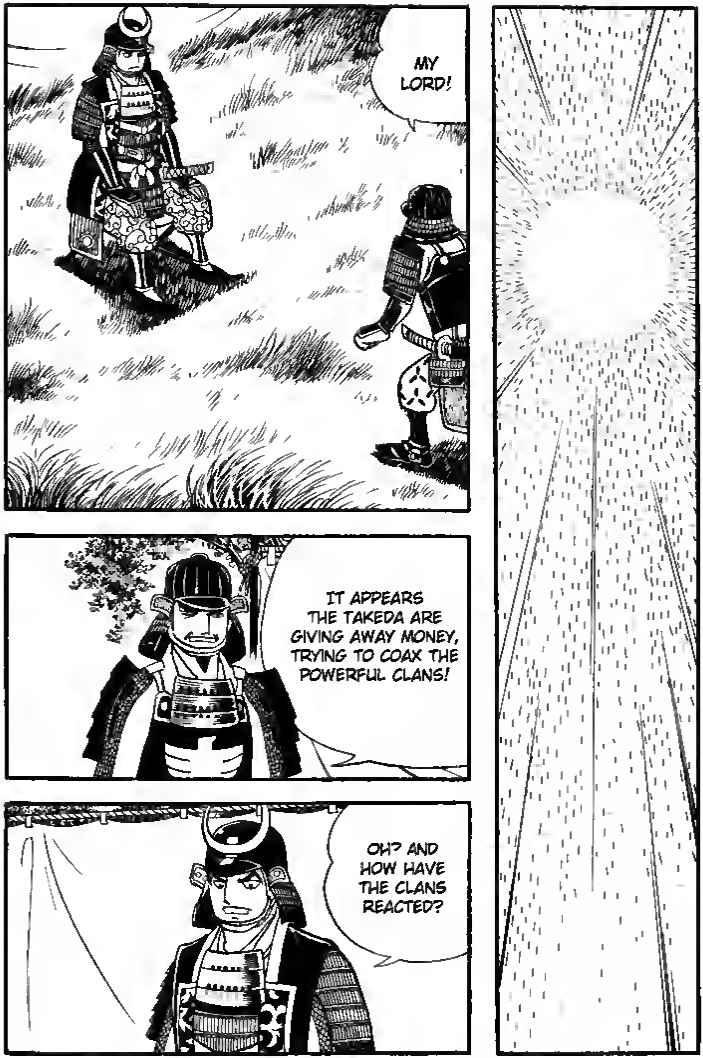

風徐如
火不動


IF THEY ARE ERECTING A CASTLE, THAT MEANS THEY ARE EXPECTING A DRAWN-OUT BATTLE AS WELL.
MY LORD, THE ECHIGO ARMY HAS BEGUN CONSTRUCTING A CASTLE ON MT. KAZURA I BELIEVE THIS IS THE PERFECT CHANCE TO ATTACK.

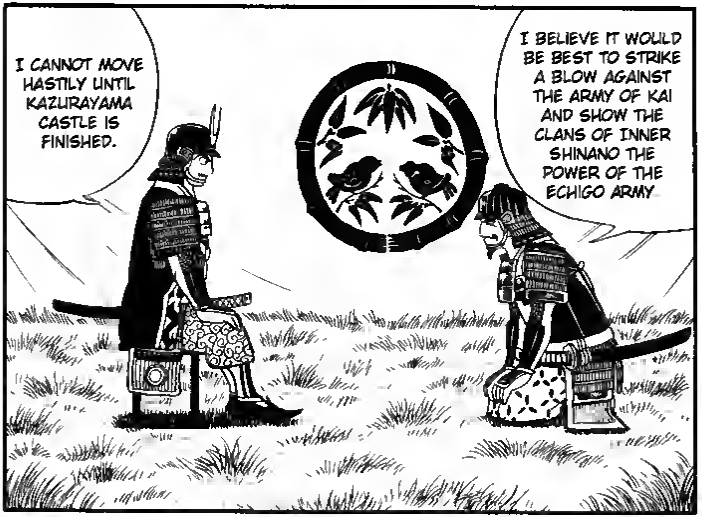
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY ANOTHER WAY OF FIGHTING?

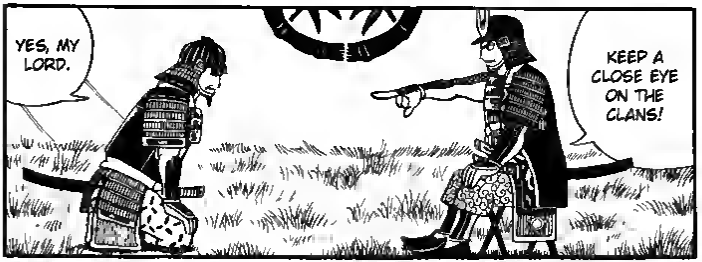

THEN I HAVE ANOTHER WAY OF FIGHTING THEM, RATHER THAN CLASHING AND INCURRING SEVERE LOSSES.

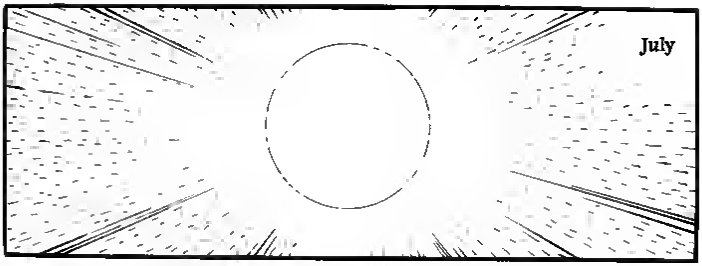

THE ECHIGO ARMY CONSISTS OF MANY POWERFUL CLANS. WE MUST WIN THEM OVER WITH PROMISES OF MONEY AND REWARDS.
THAT IS WHY I HAVE MERCILESSLY PUNISHED ANY TRAITORS, AND SPARED NO REWARD FOR THOSE WHO JOINED US.
BUT MY LORD, THEY MAY HAVE MANY POWERFUL CLANS, BUT SO DO WE.
YES, MY LORD.
JUST ONE MORE THING. DO NOT FORGET TO HAVE THE SPIES SPREAD GOSSIP THAT THIS LAND WILL SOON BECOME THE TAKEDA'S DOMAIN.
THE RESULTS WILL SHOW THEMSELVES SOON ENOUGH.

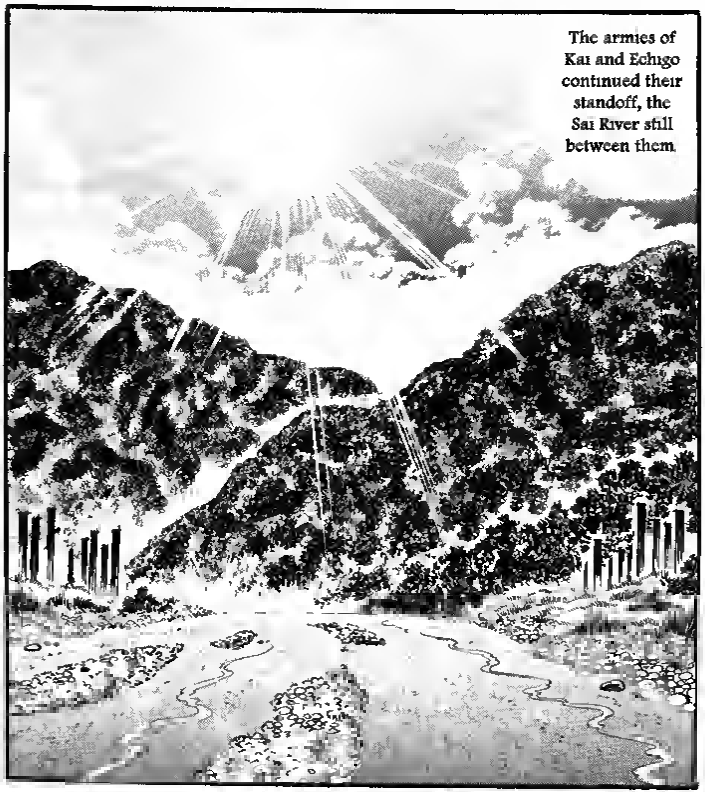

MY LORD!
IT APPEARS THE TAKEDA ARE GIVING AWAY MONEY, TRYING TO COAX THE POWERFUL CLANS!
OH? AND HOW HAVE THE CLANS REACTED?

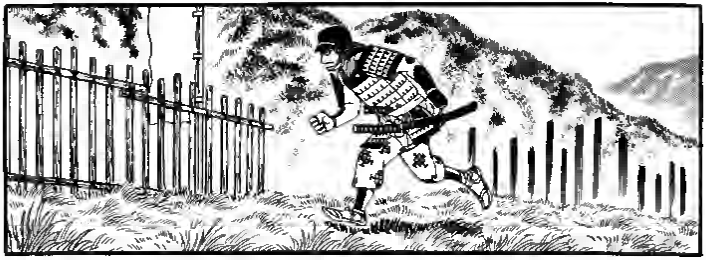
WE DO NOT KNOW FOR SURE JUST YET, BUT IF THIS DRAWS ON LONG ENOUGH, THEY MAY BECOME SUCH-MINDED. HUMAN GREED IS A DREADFUL THING...

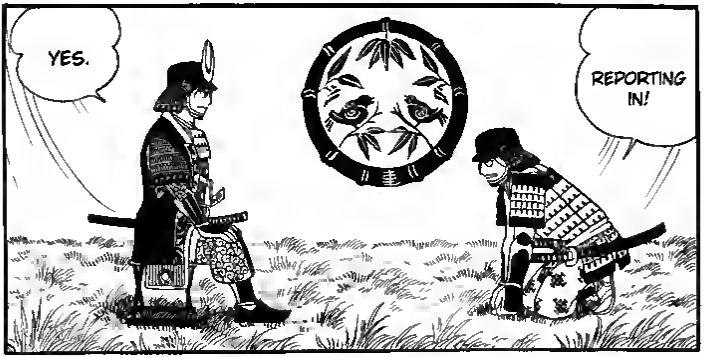

I CANNOT MOVE HASTILY UNTIL KAZURAYAMA CASTLE IS FINISHED.
I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE BEST TO STRIKE A BLOW AGAINST THE ARMY OF KAI AND SHOW THE CLANS OF INNER SHINANO THE POWER OF THE ECHIGO ARMY

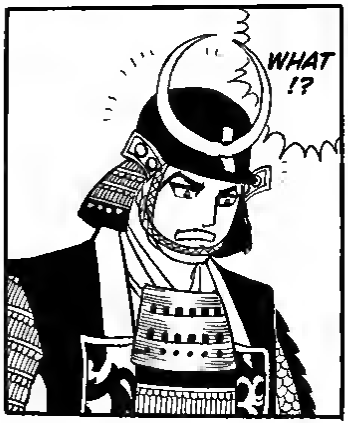

YES, MY LORD.
KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON THE CLANS!

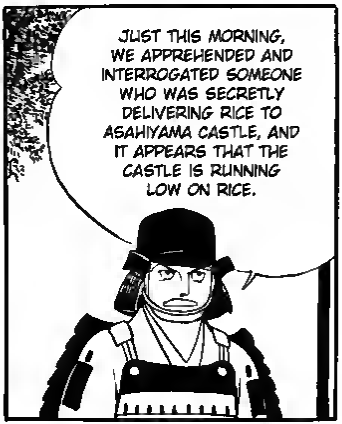

July


The armies of Kai and Echigo continued their standoff, the Sai River still between them.




YES.
REPORTING IN!

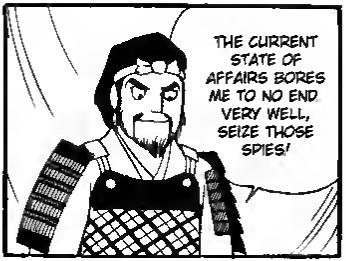

WHAT !?

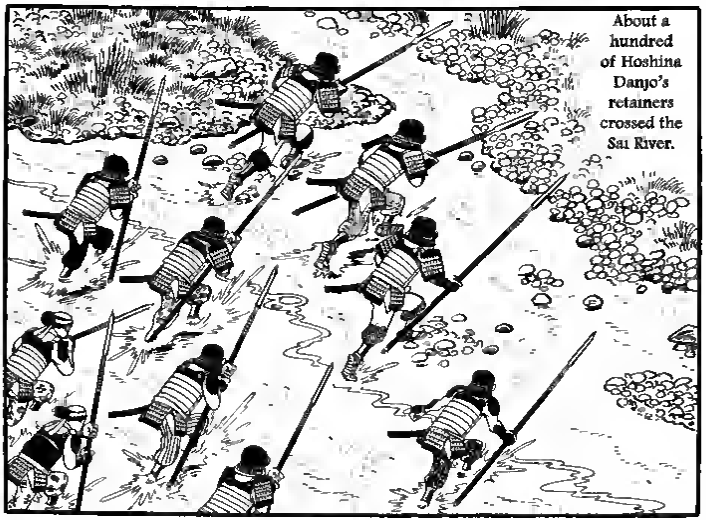

JUST THIS MORNING, WE APPREHENDED AND INTERROGATED SOMEONE WHO WAS SECRETLY DELIVERING RICE TO ASAHIYAMA CASTLE, AND IT APPEARS THAT THE CASTLE IS RUNNING LOW ON RICE.

AND YOU HAVE APPREHENDED THIS FARMER?
THAT MAN WAS A FARMER IN THIS REGION, AND HE KNEW HOW MANY BALES HAD ALREADY BEEN BROUGHT INTO ASAHIYAMA CASTLE.
YOU LET HIM GO...?
NO, MY LORD. HE WAS SIMPLY A FARMER, AND DID NOT SEEM SUSPICIOUS, SO WE LET HIM GO.
A STARVING CASTLE WILL RUIN ITSELF SO LONG AS ITS SUPPLY ROUTES ARE CUT OFF.
MY LORD, WHY DO WE NOT SIMPLY BESIEGE ASAHIYAMA CASTLE?
.....

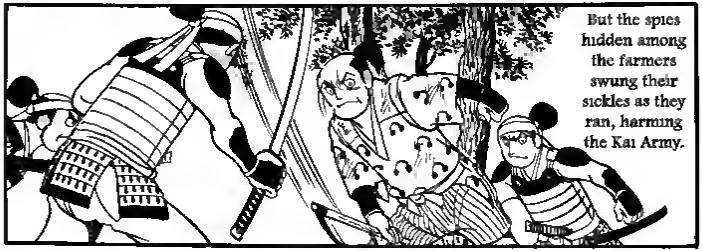
July 19th
Camp of Takeda's general Hoshina Danjo
REPORTING IN.
OH?
THE ECHIGO ARMY'S SPIES HAVE SLIPPED AMONG THE FARMERS MOWING THE GRASS IN THE RIVERBED.

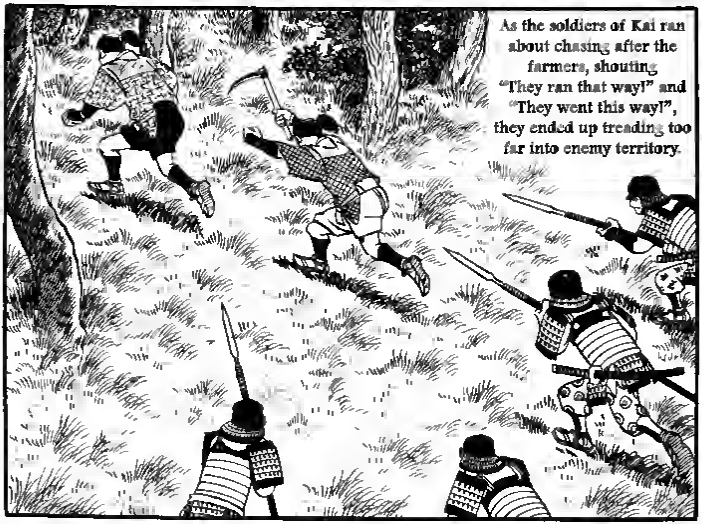
YES, SIR!


THE CURRENT STATE OF AFFAIRS BORES ME TO NO END. VERY WELL, SEIZE THOSE SPIES!

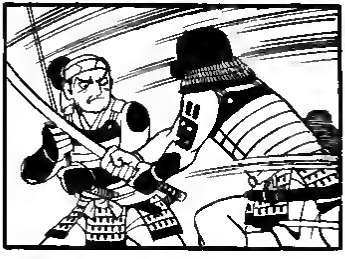

About a hundred of Hoshina Danjo's retainers crossed the Sai River.

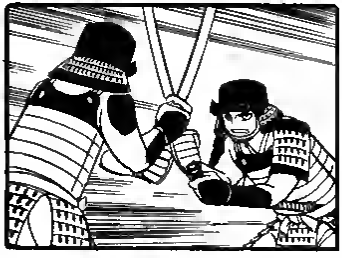
The farmers mowing the grass ran away in panic.


But the spies hidden among the farmers swung their sickles as they ran, harming the Kai Army.


As the soldiers of Kai ran about chasing after the farmers, shouting "They ran that way!" and "They went this way!", they ended up treading too far into enemy territory.

AH!
HUH?
LET'S BREAK THROUGH THEM AND HEAD BACK!
DAMN! THEY'VE CUT OFF OUR ESCAPE ROUTE!
IT'S THE ECHIGO SOLDIERS!



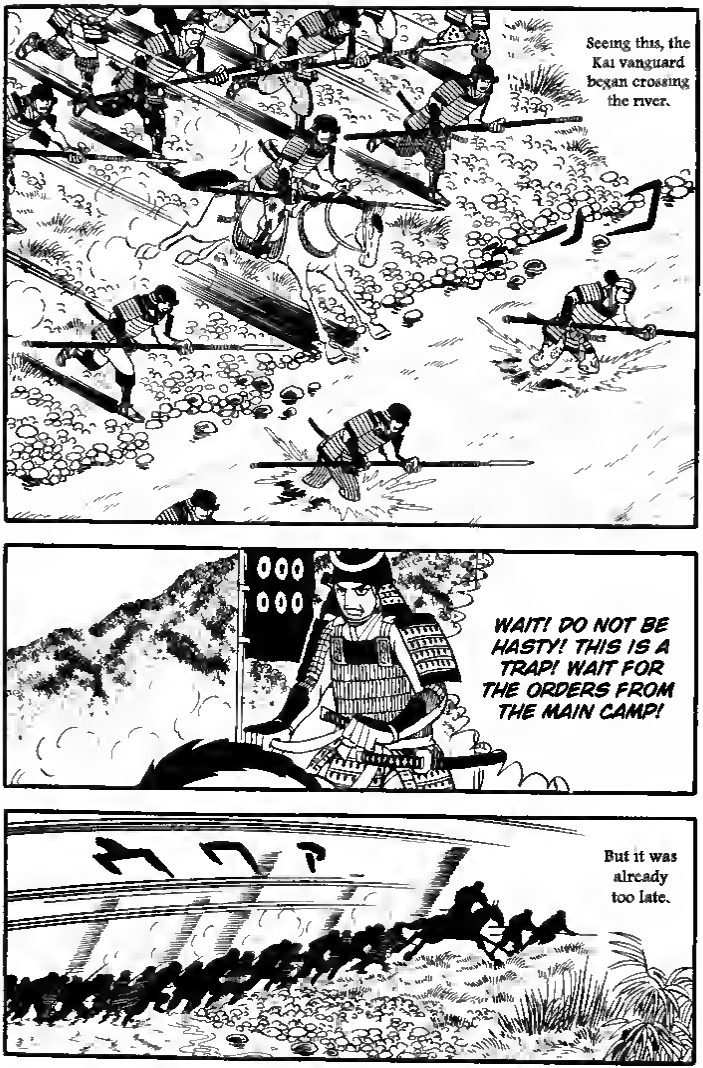


AFTER THEM! SAVE OUR ALLIES!

OHHH! THE ENEMY HAS OUR COMPANIONS SURROUNDED!

Another squad of Echigo soldiers turned up, as if they were waiting for this.

They assaulted the Hoshina forces.
OHHH!
SAVE THEM!
THE HOSHINA FORCES WILL BE ANNIHILATED AT THIS RATE!

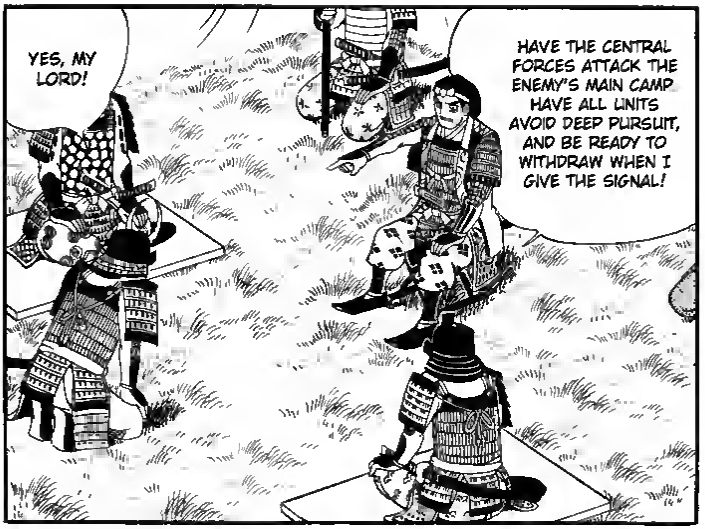

Seeing this, the Kai vanguard began crossing the river.
WAIT! DO NOT BE HASTY! THIS IS A TRAP! WAIT FOR THE ORDERS FROM THE MAIN CAMP!
But it was already too late.

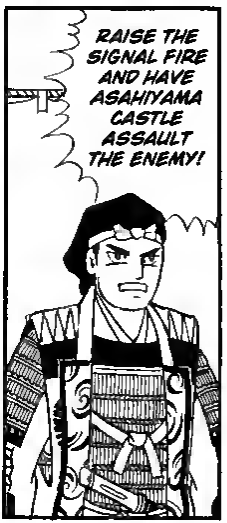
YES, SIR!
DAMN! FIRE THE RIFLES AND WARN THE MAIN CAMP!
ドドド

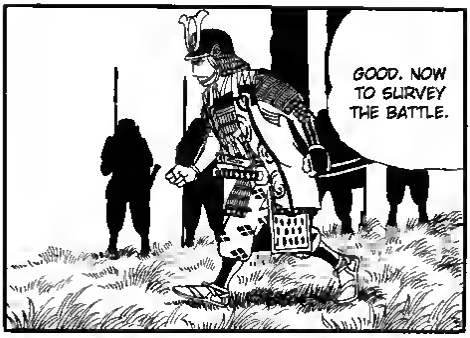
WHERE DID THAT GUNFIRE COME FROM?
HUH?

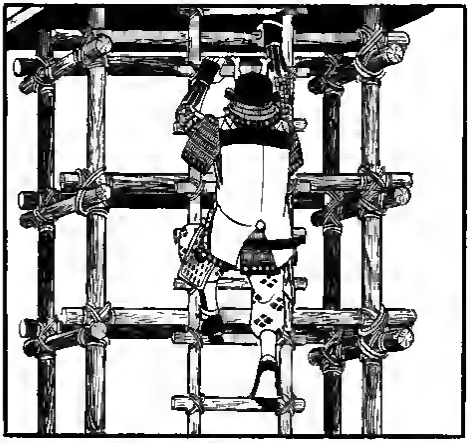
REPORTING IN!
WHAT!?
THE SHINANO VANGUARD HAS BEEN SURROUNDED BY THE ENEMY!
THAT DAMNED KAGETORA IS TRIFLING WITH ME!

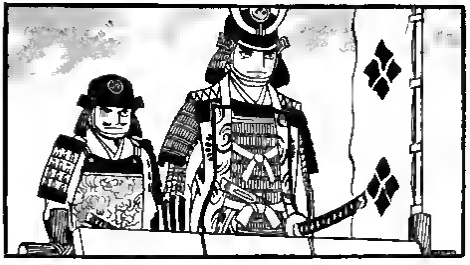
YES, MY LORD!
HAVE THE LEFT WING CROSS THE SAI RIVER AND CARRY OUT A FRONTAL ATTACK ON THE ENEMY TO SAVE THE SHINANO VANGUARD!
YES, MY LORD. I WILL TRANSMIT YOUR ORDERS.
HAVE THE RIGHT WING FEIGN TO CIRCLE AROUND THE ENEMY, AND DRAW THE ENEMY'S FORCES DOWN-STREAM ON THE SAI RIVER!

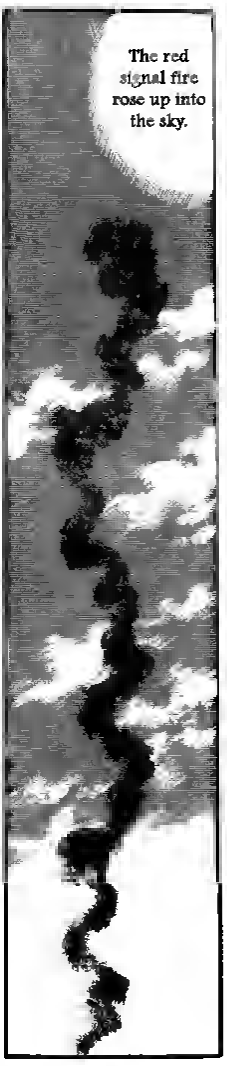

YES, MY LORD!
HAVE THE CENTRAL FORCES ATTACK THE ENEMY'S MAIN CAMP. HAVE ALL UNITS AVOID DEEP PURSUIT, AND BE READY TO WITHDRAW WHEN I GIVE THE SIGNAL!

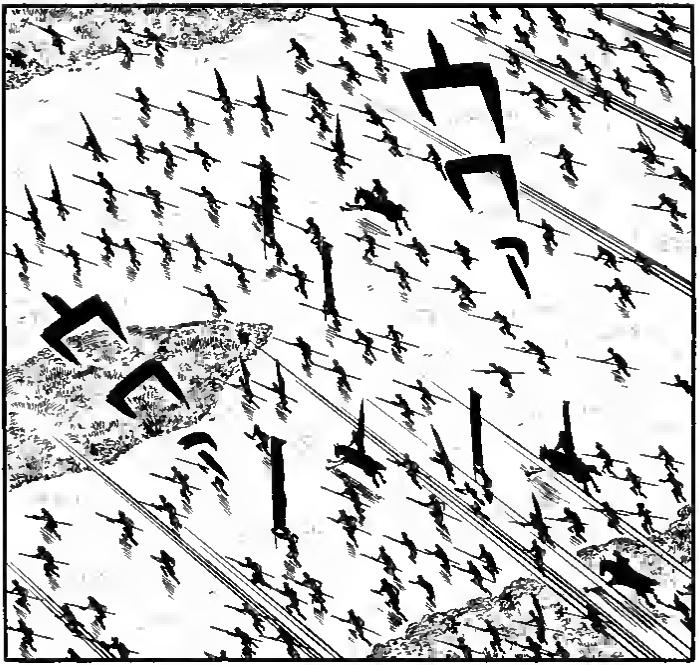

RAISE THE SIGNAL FIRE AND HAVE ASAHIYAMA CASTLE ASSAULT THE ENEMY!


GOOD. NOW TO SURVEY THE BATTLE.

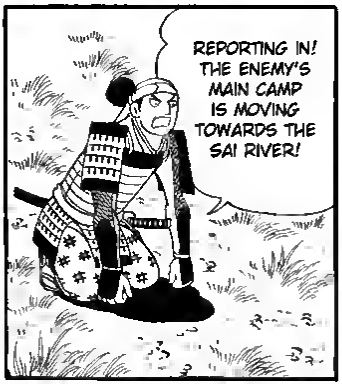





The red signal fire rose up into the sky.



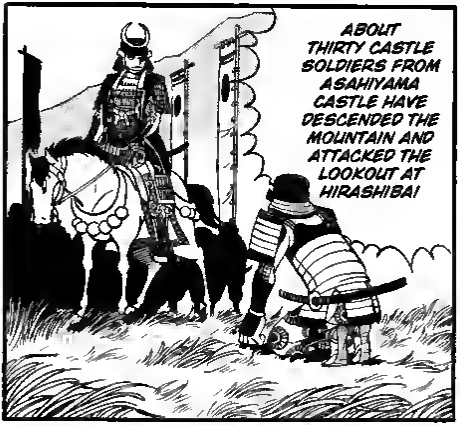
GOOD WORK.

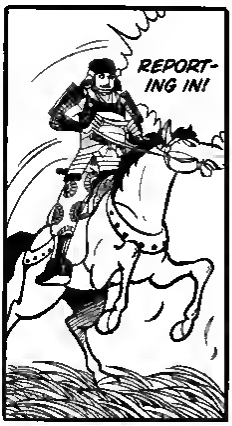

REPORTING IN! THE ENEMY'S MAIN CAMP IS MOVING TOWARDS THE SAI RIVER!

THE THOUSAND ECHIGO SOLDIERS GARRISONED AGAINST ASAHIYAMA CASTLE HAVE SUDDENLY LEFT THEIR CAMP AND HEADED FOR THE SAI RIVER!
BABA MINBU, DO YOU SUPPOSE THE ENEMY IS SERIOUSLY MOTIVATED?
THEY MAY BE, MY LORD.
GOOD WORK.
SEEING THAT EVEN THE SOLDIERS GARRISONED AGAINST ASAHIYAMA CASTLE HAVE HEADED FOR THE SAI RIVER, I PRESUME THE ENEMY IS NO LONGER AFRAID OF ASAHIYAMA CASTLE. THIS HAS BECOME MOST INTRIGUING.

Nagao Kagetora left his main camp at the castle mount, and saw the Kai Army's signal fire by Araki
I PRESUME IT IS TO INFORM ASAHIYAMA CASTLE OF AN EMERGENCY.
WHAT IS THAT SIGNAL FIRE?
WHICH WOULD MEAN THAT ASAHIYAMA CASTLE STILL HAS THE WILL TO FIGHT, EVEN IN STARVATION!
THAT IS WHAT I THOUGHT MYSELF ..

VERY WELL! DO NOT ADVANCE ANY FURTHER!
YES, MY LORD!
ORDER EACH UNIT NOT TO PURSUE THE KAI ARMY TOO FAR!
As Harunobu and Kagetora both knew the other was a prodigious general, neither of them could risk everything on a fight without knowing their true worth.


ABOUT THIRTY CASTLE SOLDIERS FROM ASAHIYAMA CASTLE HAVE DESCENDED THE MOUNTAIN AND ATTACKED THE LOOKOUT AT HIRASHIBA!


REPORTING IN!

THE WAY THEY FIRED THEIR RIFLES AND RAN AWAY DID NOT SEEM LIKE THEY WERE HUNGRY!

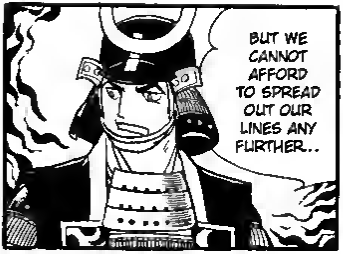
DID THEY SEEM HUNGRY?

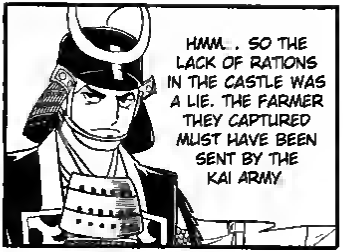
IF THEIR LACK OF RATIONS WAS BUT A LIE, THEN WE WILL BE ASSAULTED FROM THE REAR!
YES, MY LORD!
VERY WELL! HAVE KAKIZAKI'S FORCES GARRISON AGAINST ASAHIYAMA CASTLE!
Kakizaki's unit of three hundred returned in a hurry to garrison against Asahiyama Castle's attack

But five hundred soldiers sortied from Asahiyama Castle, as if they had been waiting for them.

YES, SIR!
DAMN! WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH MEN FOR THIS! REQUEST REINFORCEMENTS!

REPORTING IN! ASAHIYAMA CASTLE HAS SENT FIVE HUNDRED SOLDIERS TO ATTACK! WE CANNOT LAST AT THIS RATE! WE REQUEST REINFORCEMENTS!


BUT WE CANNOT AFFORD TO SPREAD OUT OUR LINES ANY FURTHER...


HMM.. SO THE LACK OF RATIONS IN THE CASTLE WAS A LIE. THE FARMER THEY CAPTURED MUST HAVE BEEN SENT BY THE KAI ARMY

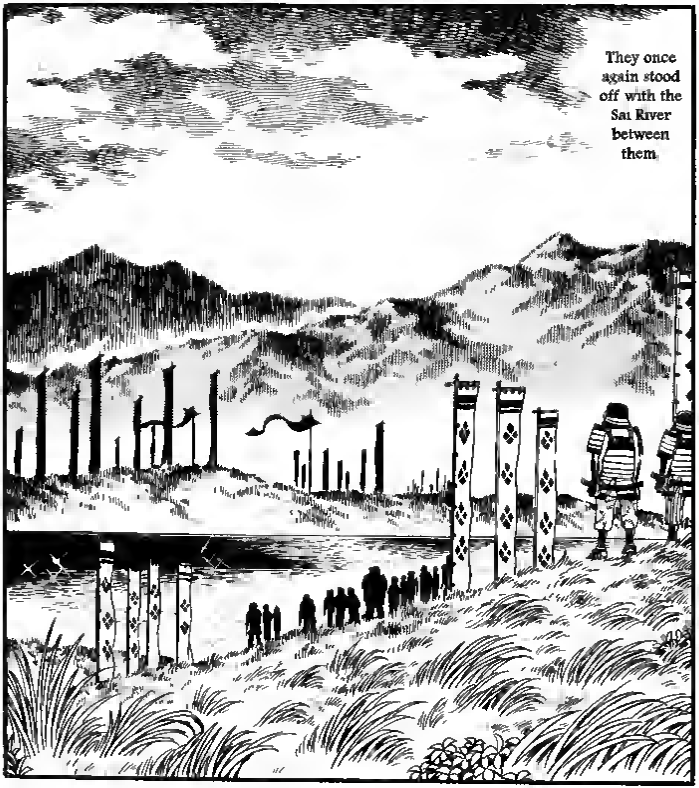
YES, MY LORD!
VERY WELL! SEND A PORTION OF THE RIGHT WING!

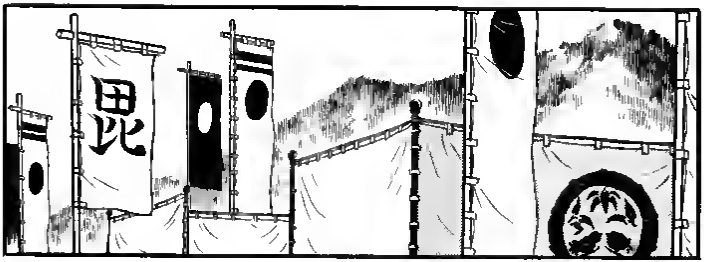
A messenger was sent,

And a portion of the right wing headed for Hirashiba.

At first the Echigo Army had the advantage, but this caused the Kai Army on that front to have the advantage.
Asahiyama Castle's diversionary strategy had succeeded, and the Echigo Army could advance no further.

Before long, both armies returned to their original locations, as if they agreed upon it.

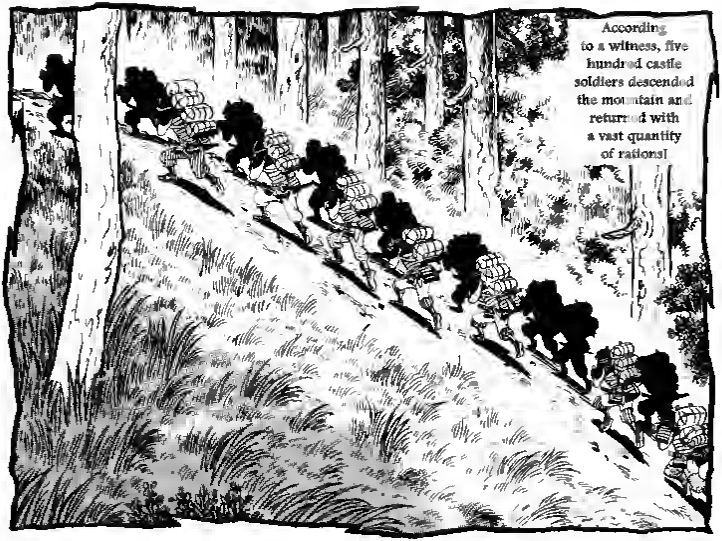

They once again stood off with the Sai River between them.


毘

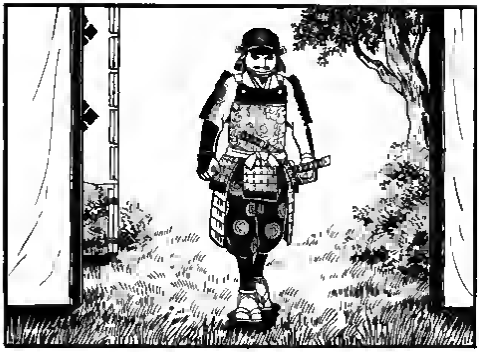
YES?
REPORTING IN!

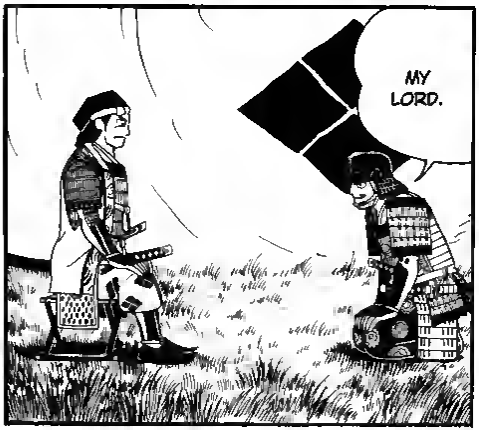
WHAT!?

IT APPEARS THAT RATIONS HAVE BEEN BROUGHT IN TO ASAHIYAMA CASTLE THROUGH THE SIDE ROADS FROM MOMOSE AND YUNOYAMA DURING THE MELEE!

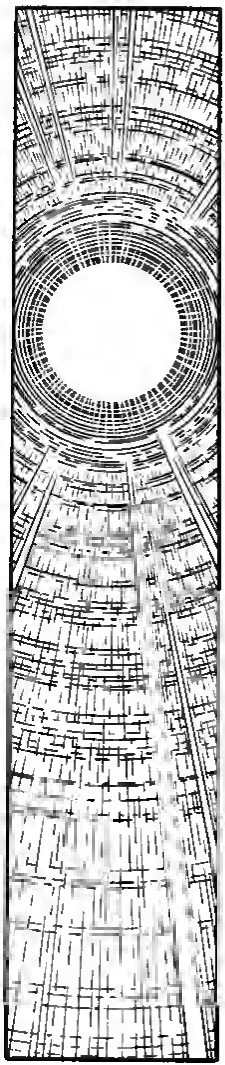

According to a witness, five hundred castle soldiers descended the mountain and returned with a vast quantity of rations!

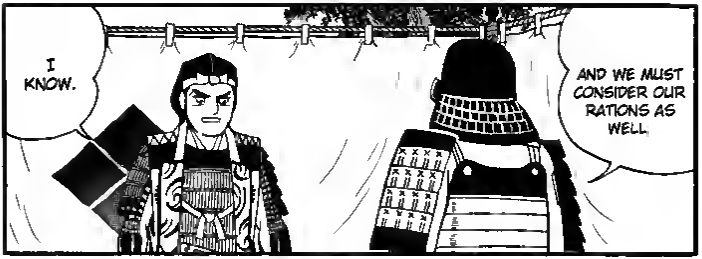
NNNGH... THAT DAMNED HARUNOBU...




MY LORD.

THE SOLDIERS HAVE BEEN ON EDGE. THE SLIGHTEST THING WILL PROVOKE THEM TO A FIGHT.



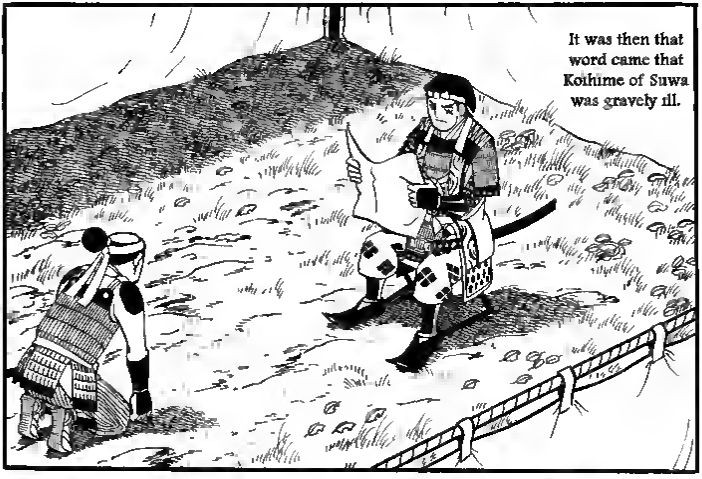

I KNOW.
AND WE MUST CONSIDER OUR RATIONS AS WELL.

BUT THE SAME GOES FOR KAGETORA JUST AS WE SUFFER, HE SUFFERS AS WELL.

WHILE I AM WAITING FOR A CERTAIN PERSON.

NAGAO KAGETORA CANNOT RETURN TO ECHIGO ONCE THE SNOW FALLS.
SO HOW LONG DO YOU INTEND TO GO ON LIKE THIS? AT LEAST TELL ME YOUR INTENTIONS!

Autumn came.


It was then that word came that Koihime of Suwa was gravely ill.

But there was nothing Harunobu could do.

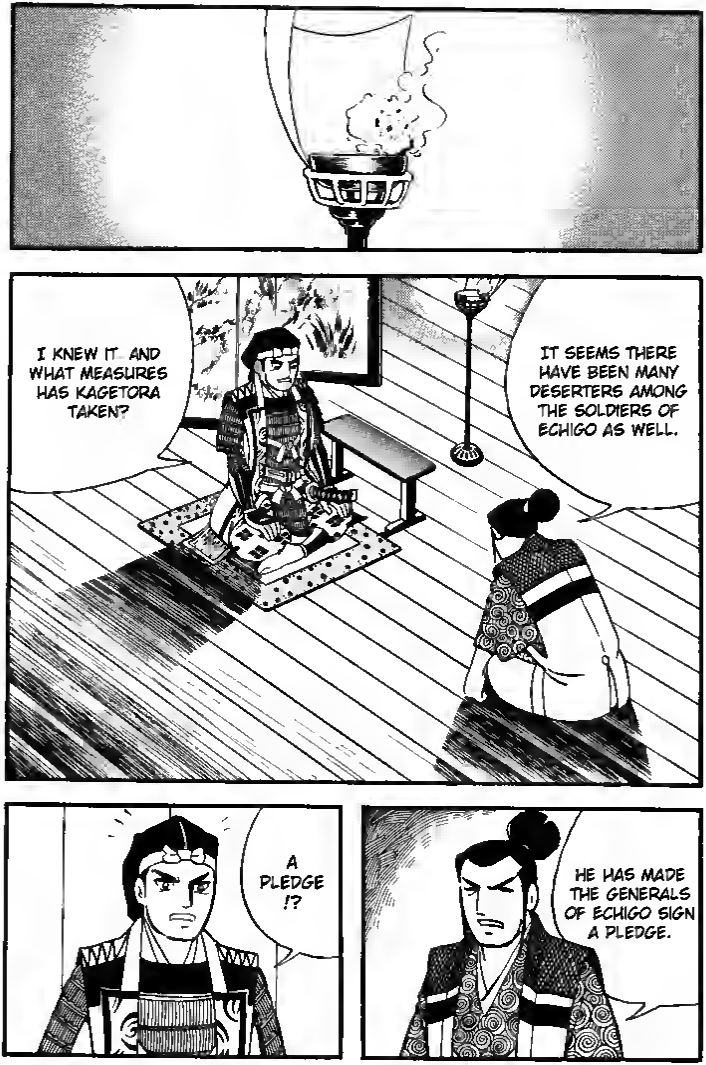
TAKEDA SHINGEN

TRANSLATED BY SYSTEMATICCHAOS
PROOFING BY ANGELOFCHAOTIX
EDITING BY HIGHTIDE
QC BY KAZUHIKO

CHAPTER 38

Chapter 39:
The Arbitrator

The soldiers had been wearing the same clothes since late April
The rations were starting to run low.
Some of the Shinano soldiers began sneaking out of the camp in groups of two or three.


I KNEW IT. AND WHAT MEASURES HAS KAGETORA TAKEN?
IT SEEMS THERE HAVE BEEN MANY DESERTERS AMONG THE SOLDIERS OF ECHIGO AS WELL.
A PLEDGE !?
HE HAS MADE THE GENERALS OF ECHIGO SIGN A PLEDGE.

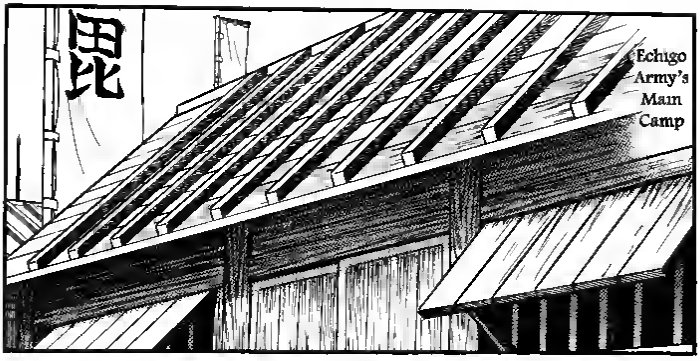
1 – I SHALL REMAIN ENCAMPED BY THE MASTER, NO MATTER HOW MANY YEARS LORD KAGETORA REMAINS ENCAMPED.
2 – I SHALL PUNISH ANY OF MY RETAINERS THAT BREAK OUT IN A FIGHT.
3 – I SHALL VOICE ANY OPINIONS I HAVE REGARDING DEFENSE
4 – I SHALL ABSOLUTELY OBEY ANY ORDERS TO ATTACK
5 – I WILL NOT COMPLAIN IF WE RETURN ONLY TO MARCH FORTH ONCE MORE.
THAT IS THE GIST OF IT.
GOOD WORK. I AM PLEASED BY YOUR INVESTI-GATION.
YES, MY LORD.
I KNEW IT.

OHH, SO HE'S ARRIVED AT LAST!
REPORTING IN! SIR TAIGEN SUFU IS HERE FROM SURUGA TO SEE YOU!
YES, MY LORD!
SEND HIM IN.

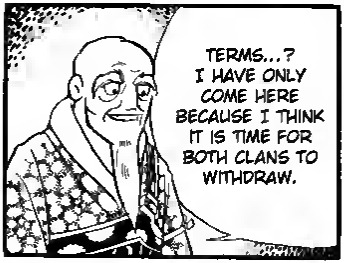
THAT MONK CAN SURELY ARRANGE EVERYTHING.
I AM EVER SO GRATEFUL THAT YOU CAME HERE PERSONALLY.
MY, I AM MOST TIRED! TRAVELLING THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS SURE TAKES IT'S TOLL ON THE ELDERLY!
WE HAVE NOTHING HERE IN THE CAMP, BUT...
WHATEVER THE CASE, I AM PARCHED. WILL YOU FETCH ME SOME WINE?

YES, MY LORD!
YOU! BRING IN SOME WINE!
SO, HOW LONG HAVE YOU SET UP CAMP FOR?
OH-HO! A MOST EXCELLENT DISPLAY FOR HAVING NO FOOD!
TWO HUNDRED DAYS NOW.

BUT THE SAME GOES FOR KAGETORA.
TWO HUNDRED DAYS? I'M SURE YOUR SOLDIERS MUST BE WEARY.
YES.
SO YOU HAVE ENTRUSTED ME AS YOUR ARBITRATOR?
HEHEHE... IN SUPPRESSING SHINANO, YOU HAVE DONE IN TEN YEARS WHAT YOUR FATHER NOBUTORA FAILED TO DO. KAGETORA MUST BE A DREADFUL MAN TO GIVE YOU SUCH TROUBLE.


Echigo Army's Main Camp

I THANK YOU.
WELL, WITH THE WINTER COMING, I HAVE COME TO ARBITRATE.

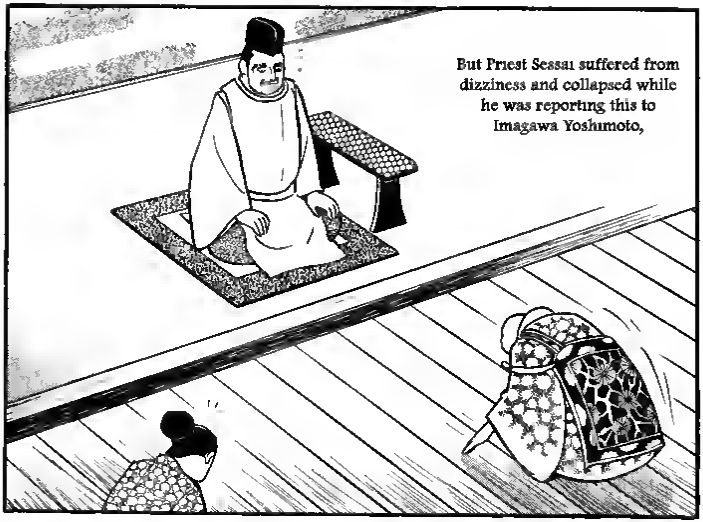

TERMS...? I HAVE ONLY COME HERE BECAUSE I THINK IT IS TIME FOR BOTH CLANS TO WITHDRAW.

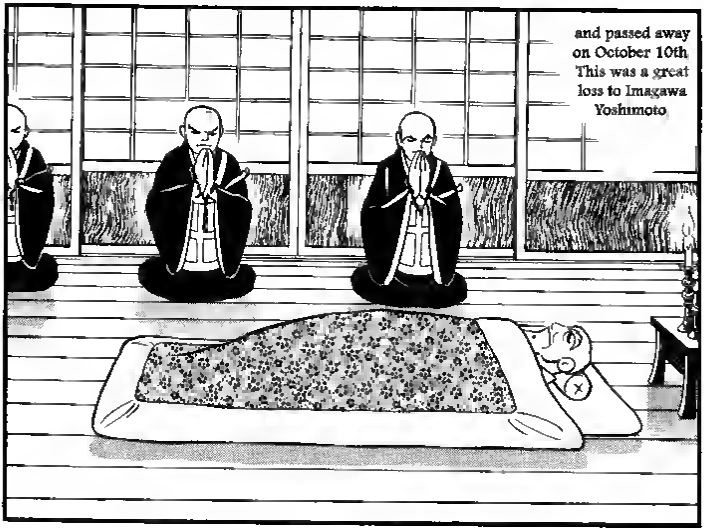
WHAT ARE THE TERMS?

OH? AND WHY NOT?
I CANNOT.
THAT IS SIMPLY AVARICE.
WE MUST AT LEAST RECLAIM THE DISTRICTS OF SARASHINA AND HAKOSHINA, THE FORMER FIEF OF MURAKAMI YOSHIKIYO, OR WE WILL BE THE LAUGHINGSTOCK OF THE WARRIORS OF SHINANO
BUT THAT WAS BASED ON THE POLITICAL MAP THAT LORD HARUNOBU DREW UP BEFORE YOUR DEBUT. IT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU. NOW THAT YOUR STANDOFF HAS LASTED FOR TWO HUNDRED DAYS, I BELIEVE IT IS FAIR THAT BOTH ARMIES WITHDRAW.
WHAT? AVARICE? HARUNOBU IS THE AVARICIOUS ONE HE WANTS TO HAVE SHINANO ALL TO HIMSELF!

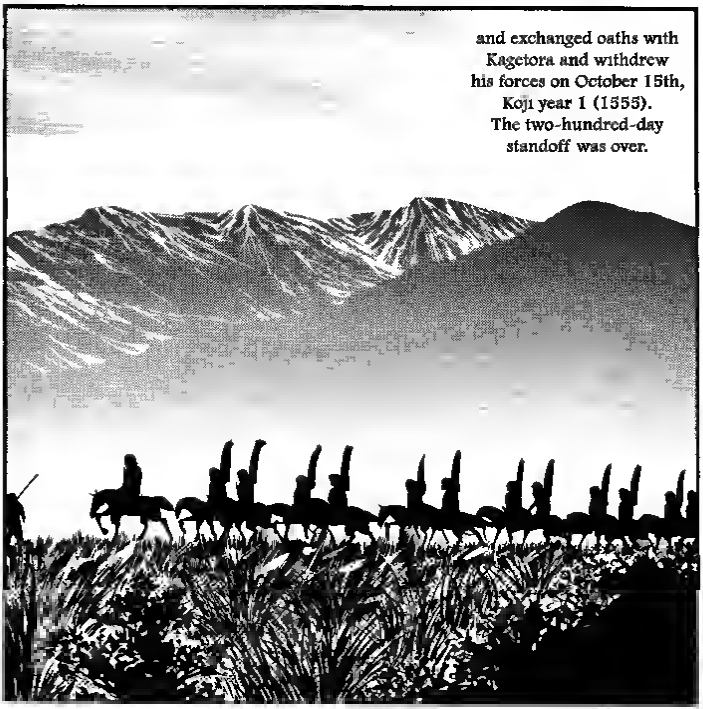
THEN WILL YOU WAIT HERE UNTIL WINTER?
BUT THAT WOULD COST ME MY HONOR TOWARDS THE PEOPLE DEPENDING ON ME.
SNOWFALLS IN ECHIGO ARE DEEP, AND YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO RECEIVE SUPPLIES FROM BEHIND. WHERE DO YOU PLAN ON OBTAINING RATIONS FOR OVER TEN THOUSAND SOLDIERS?
MMMGH ...
I BELIEVE YOU MUST WITHDRAW NOW. WITH WINTER BEFORE YOU, BEING COVETOUS WILL ONLY HARM THE ECHIGO SIDE.

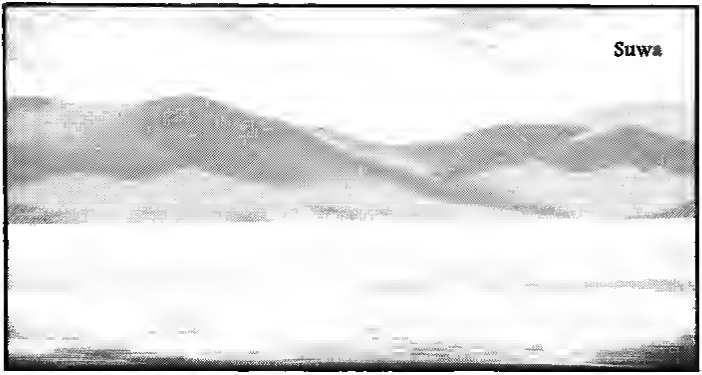
SO IF ASAHIYAMA CASTLE IS DEMOLISHED, YOU WILL APPROVE THE CURRENT DISTRIBUTION OF TERRITORY. IS THAT WELL WITH YOU?
THEN I MUST AT LEAST HAVE ASAHIYAMA CASTLE DEMOLISHED. OTHERWISE THAT WILL BECOME A THORN IN MY SIDE.
Kagetora himself knew well of the disadvantage to his army if this lasted into winter.
telling him to deal with the rest himself, and returned straight to suruga
Priest Sessai spoke of this to Harunobu


But Priest Sessai suffered from dizziness and collapsed while he was reporting this to Imagawa Yoshimoto,


and passed away on October 10th. This was a great loss to Imagawa Yoshimoto.

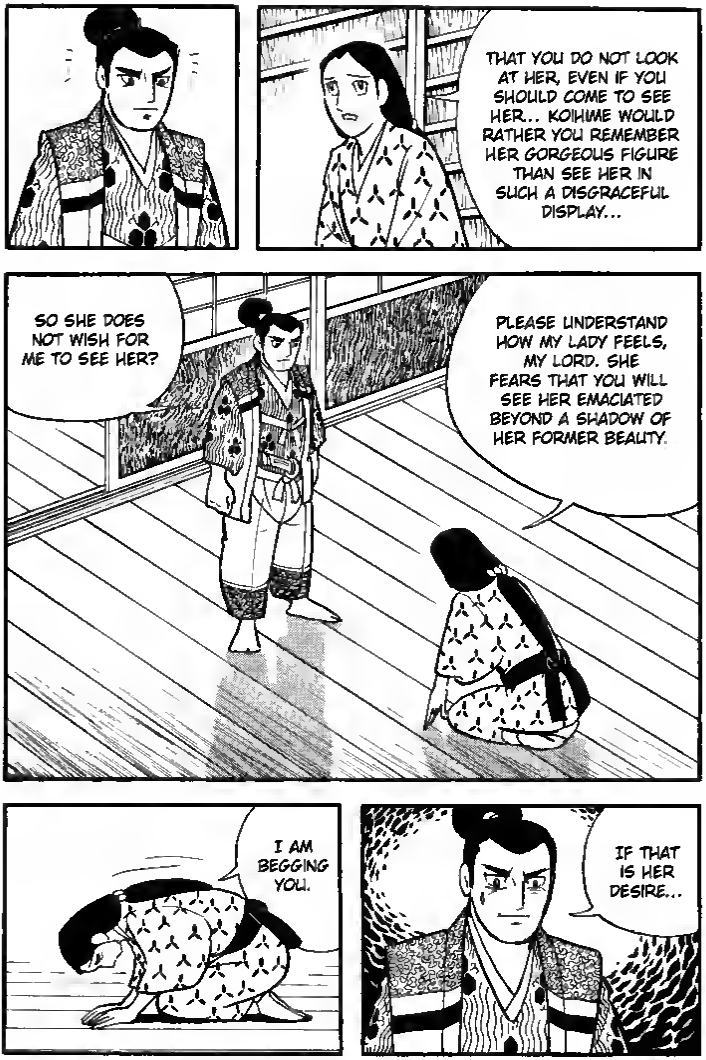
Harunobu tore
down Asahiyama
Castle,


and exchanged oaths with
Kagetora and withdrew
his forces on October 15th,
Koji year 1 (1555).
The two-hundred-day
standoff was over.


Suwa

KOIHIME!

SHE DOES NOT HAVE MUCH LONGER.
HOW IS KOIHIME'S CONDITION?
MY LORD!
OH, PLEASE WAIT HERE!
ON WHAT?
MY LADY HAS INSISTED.


THAT YOU DO NOT LOOK AT HER, EVEN IF YOU SHOULD COME TO SEE HER... KOIHIME WOULD RATHER YOU REMEMBER HER GORGEOUS FIGURE THAN SEE HER IN SUCH A DISGRACEFUL DISPLAY...
SO SHE DOES NOT WISH FOR ME TO SEE HER?
PLEASE UNDERSTAND HOW MY LADY FEELS, MY LORD. SHE FEARS THAT YOU WILL SEE HER EMACIATED BEYOND A SHADOW OF HER FORMER BEAUTY.
I AM BEGGING YOU.
IF THAT IS HER DESIRE...

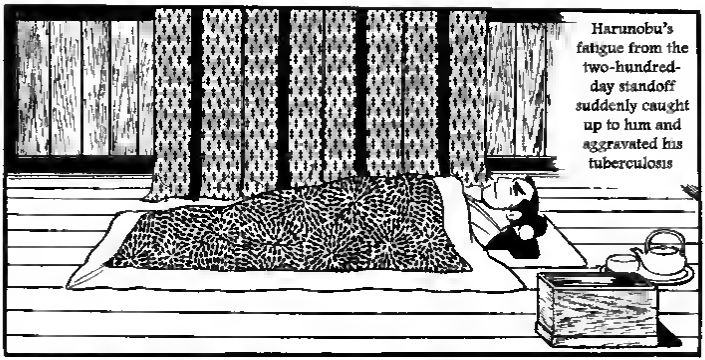
Koihime breathed her last half a month later, on November 6th of Koji year 1 (1555). It is assumed she was 25 years old at the time
When Harunobu was informed of Koihime's death, he shed a tear for the first time.

TAKEDA SHINGEN

TRANSLATED BY SYSTEMATICCHAOS
PROOFING BY ANGELOFCHAOTIX
EDITING BY HIGHTIDE
QC BY KAZUHIKO

CHAPTER 39

Chapter 40: Violating the Oath


Harunobu's fatigue from the two-hundred-day standoff suddenly caught up to him and aggravated his tuberculosis

Harunobu began his recuperation at the hot springs of Shima.

LADY ERI, TUBERCULOSIS IS A DISEASE THAT CAN SEVERELY INFLAME THE PASSIONS IN SOME PEOPLE. AS YOU WILL BE ATTENDING ON THE MASTER AT THE HOT SPRINGS OF SHIMA, HIS DESIRES FOR YOU WILL BECOME MORE VEHEMENT.

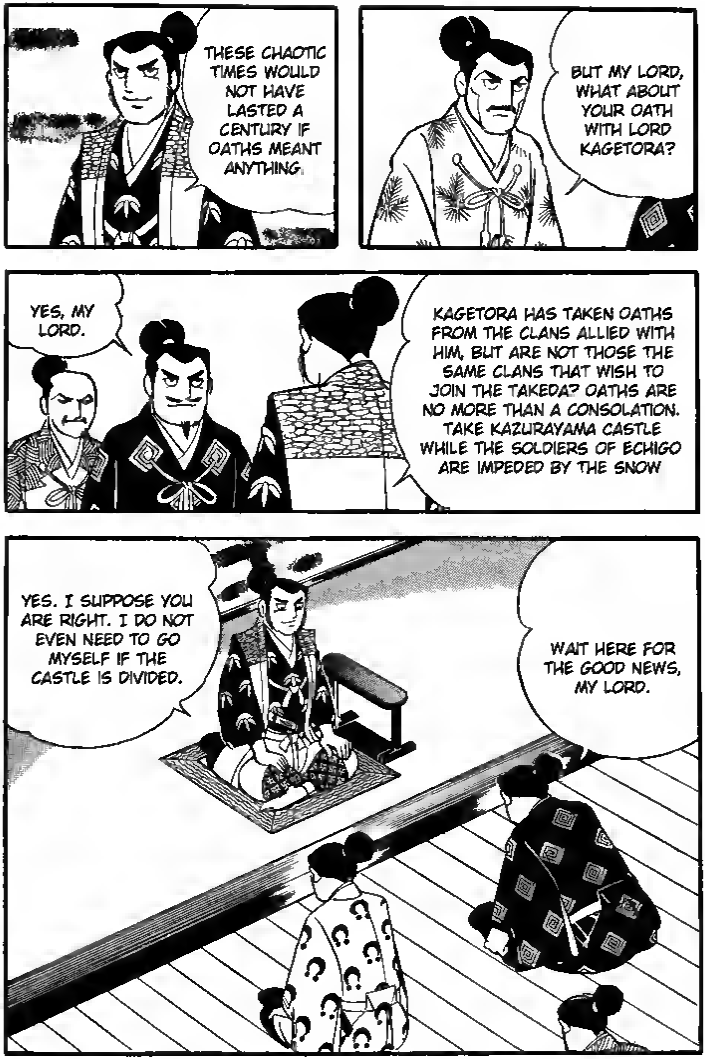
BUT SATISFYING HIS DESIRES WILL ONLY HARM THE MASTER... THEN AGAIN, IT IS NOT GOOD TO REPRESS THEM, EITHER.
Y-YES, SIR.
VERY WELL, ONCE EVERY TEN DAYS SHOULD DO NO HARM.
He used a body double to hide his recuperation from other provinces.

Koji year 3
(1557)
Harunobu had recovered after a year's rest, and returned to Tsutsuji-ga-Saki
WE, YOUR RETAINERS, ARE ALL TRULY ECSTATIC TO SEE YOU IN GOOD HEALTH, MY LORD.
?
!

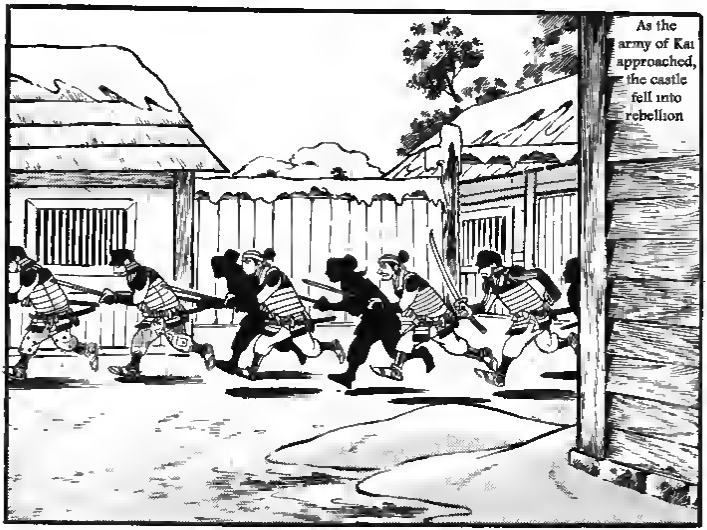
HUH?
THERE IS YET ANOTHER CAUSE FOR DELIGHT.
YOU HAVE MY CONGRATULATIONS.
ERI IS WITH CHILD.
OH?
BY THE WAY, THERE IS TURMOIL AMONG THE RETAINERS OF ECHIGO THAT NOT EVEN LORD KAGETORA CAN SUPPRESS. UENO IENARI AND SHIMODAIRA SHURI ARE FIGHTING OVER TERRITORY, AND NOT EVEN LORD KAGETORA IS ABLE TO CONTROL IT.

OH? IT IS GOING THAT POORLY?
KAGETORA IS FURIOUS, AND HE SAID HE WILL ABANDON ECHIGO AND ENTER THE PRIESTHOOD ON MT. HIEI...
?!
IS THAT A COMMENDATION OR A CRITICISM?
KAGETORA HAS HIGH IDEALS, AND HE REFUSES TO TAME THEM WITH MONEY.
BUT REMEMBER THIS WELL: ECONOMIC POLICIES ARE A MEANS OF WAR. I BELIEVE I HAVE USED SEVERAL TIMES AS MUCH MONEY AS KAGETORA HAS IN THE BATTLE OF THE SAI RIVER, AND THE EFFECTS WILL ARISE SHORTLY.
OH?
YES, MY LORD. THE EFFECTS HAVE ALREADY ARISEN.

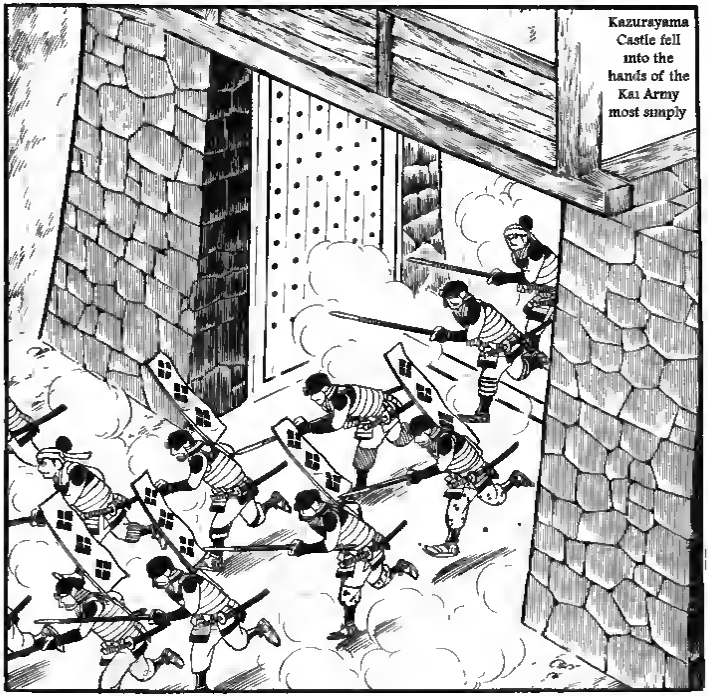
OH? THAT IS MOST INTRIGUING.
HALF OF KAZURAYAMA CASTLE, BUILT IN OPPOSITION TO ASAHIYAMA CASTLE, WISHES TO JOIN THE TAKEDA.
THIS YEAR'S SNOW IS DEEP, AND NAGAO KAGETORA CANNOT SEND FORCES EVEN IN AN EMERGENCY. IF KAZURAYAMA CASTLE IS SPLIT IN TWO, IT WILL BE INCREDIBLY EASY TO OBTAIN
YES, MY LORD.
VERY WELL, TAKE KA-ZURAYAMA CASTLE.
HMM... IF KAZURAYAMA CASTLE IS OURS, THEN NOT ONLY WILL INNER SHINANO FOLLOW, BUT WE MAY EVEN BE ABLE TO TAKE PART OF ECHIGO.

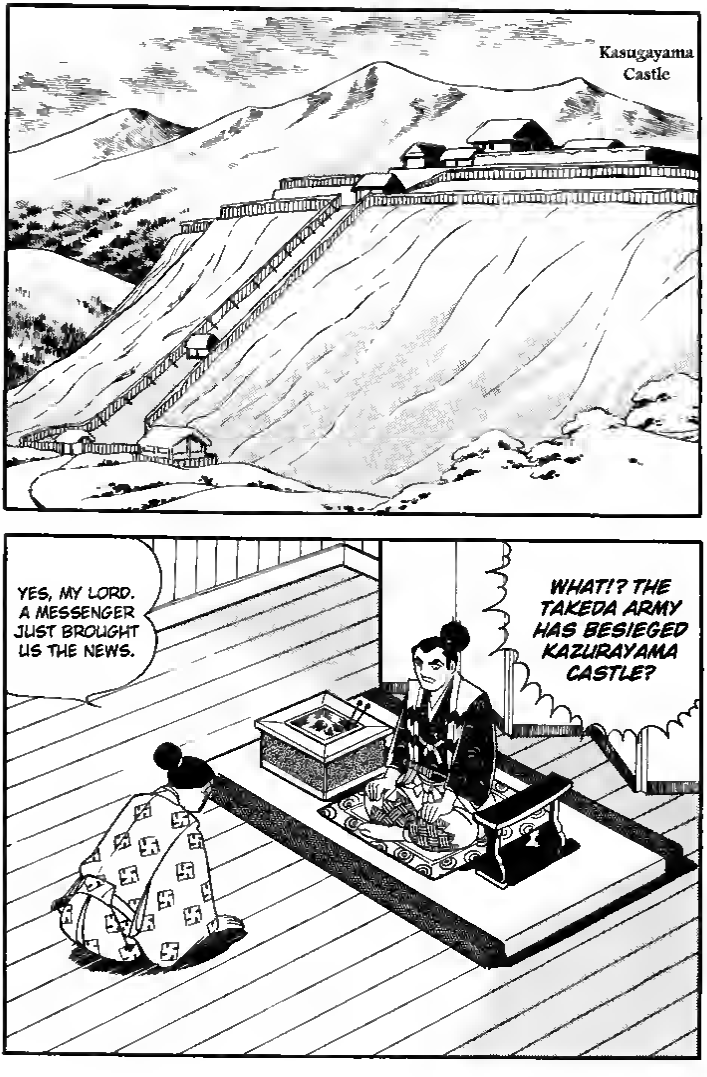

THESE CHAOTIC TIMES WOULD NOT HAVE LASTED A CENTURY IF OATHS MEANT ANYTHING.
BUT MY LORD, WHAT ABOUT YOUR OATH WITH LORD KAGETORA?
YES, MY LORD.
KAGETORA HAS TAKEN OATHS FROM THE CLANS ALLIED WITH HIM, BUT ARE NOT THOSE THE SAME CLANS THAT WISH TO JOIN THE TAKEDA? OATHS ARE NO MORE THAN A CONSOLATION. TAKE KAZURAYAMA CASTLE WHILE THE SOLDIERS OF ECHIGO ARE IMPEDED BY THE SNOW
YES. I SUPPOSE YOU ARE RIGHT. I DO NOT EVEN NEED TO GO MYSELF IF THE CASTLE IS DIVIDED.
WAIT HERE FOR THE GOOD NEWS, MY LORD.

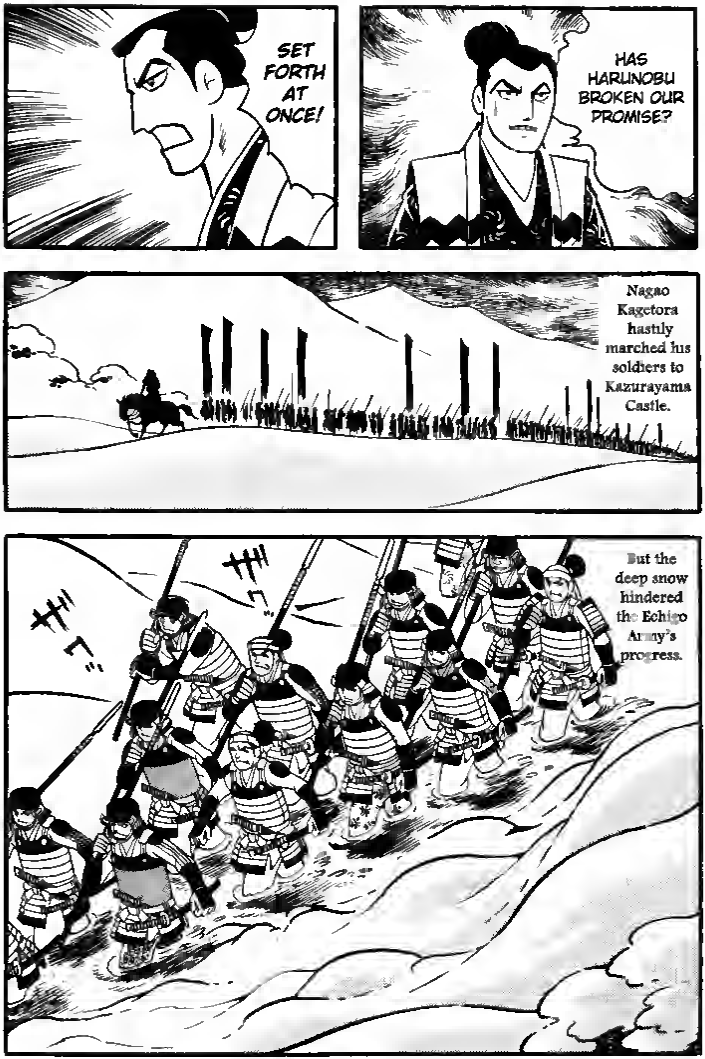
In February, the army of Kai marched forth to capture Kazurayama Castle


As the army of Kai approached, the castle fell into rebellion

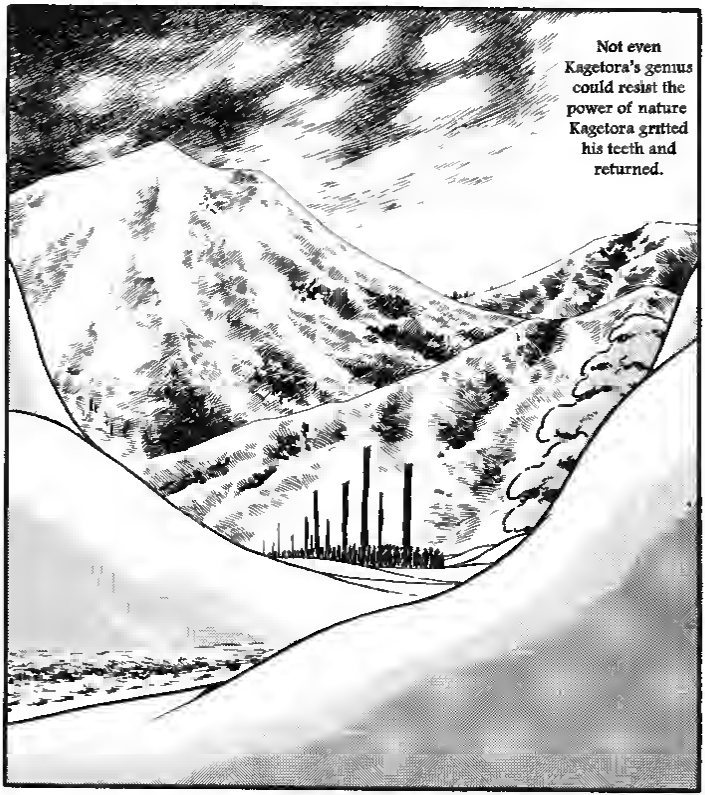
The castle soldiers had to defend themselves not against their enemies, but their allies.


Kazurayama Castle fell into the hands of the Kai Army most simply


Kasugayama Castle
YES, MY LORD. A MESSENGER JUST BROUGHT US THE NEWS.
WHAT!? THE TAKEDA ARMY HAS BESIEGED KAZURAYAMA CASTLE?

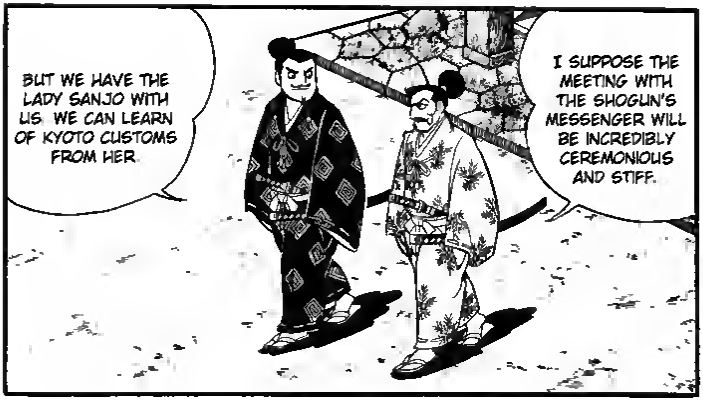

SET FORTH AT ONCE!
HAS HARUNOBU BROKEN OUR PROMISE?
Nagao Kagetora hastily marched his soldiers to Kazurayama Castle.
But the deep snow hindered the Echigo Army's progress.

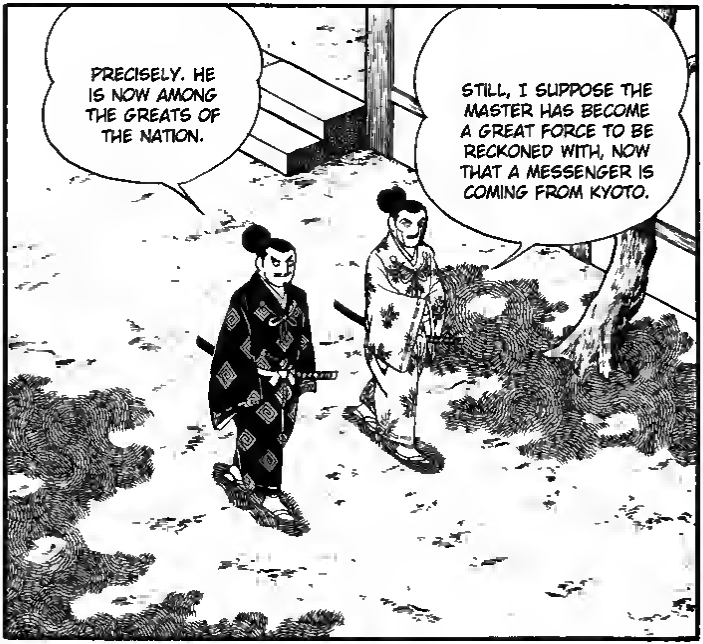
NNGH... THE DAMNED HARUNOBU WILL PAY FOR THIS! I WILL SETTLE THE SCORE AS SOON AS THE SNOW MELTS!


Not even Kagetora's genius could resist the power of nature Kagetora gritted his teeth and returned.

Spring
THEN I WILL TAKE MY LEAVE...
UNDERSTOOD. SEE TO IT THAT HE IS WELCOMED PROPERLY.

A MESSENGER OF SHOGUN ASHIKAGA IS COMING TO KAI.
MY LORD! WHAT WORD FROM LORD IMAGAWA YOSHIMOTO THIS TIME?
BUT THE SHOGUN'S MESSENGER CANNOT BE TREATED ROUGHLY.
I CAN HARDLY IMAGINE WHAT BUSINESS HE HAS.
A MESSENGER FROM THE SHOGUN IN KYOTO...?
HEHEHE... I WONDER WHAT KIND OF WELCOME WOULD PLEASE HIM...


BUT WE HAVE THE LADY SANJO WITH US. WE CAN LEARN OF KYOTO CUSTOMS FROM HER.
I SUPPOSE THE MEETING WITH THE SHOGUN'S MESSENGER WILL BE INCREDIBLY CEREMONIOUS AND STIFF.


PRECISELY. HE IS NOW AMONG THE GREATS OF THE NATION.
STILL, I SUPPOSE THE MASTER HAS BECOME A GREAT FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH, NOW THAT A MESSENGER IS COMING FROM KYOTO.

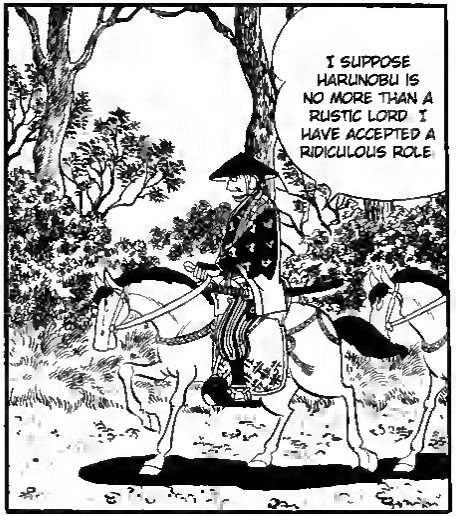
TAKEDA SHINGEN

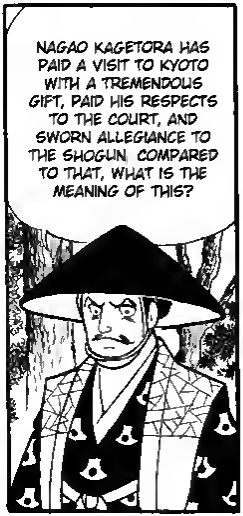
TRANSLATED BY SYSTEMATICCHAOS
PROOFING BY ANGELOFCHAOTIX
EDITING BY HIGHTIDE
QC BY KAZUHIKO

CHAPTER 40

Chapter 41: Harunobu-Style Welcome

IS THIS YOUR IDEA OF A JOKE? I HAVE COME IN THE NAME OF SHOGUN ASHIKAGA, BUT NO ONE HAS YET TO COME WELCOME ME!

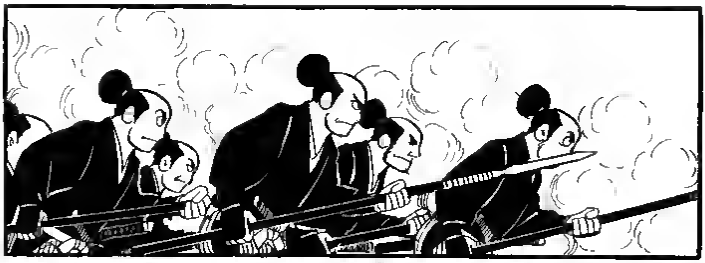

I SUPPOSE HARUNOBU IS NO MORE THAN A RUSTIC LORD I HAVE ACCEPTED A RIDICULOUS ROLE

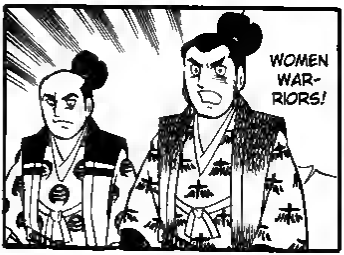

NAGAO KAGETORA HAS PAID A VISIT TO KYOTO WITH A TREMENDOUS GIFT, PAID HIS RESPECTS TO THE COURT, AND SWORN ALLEGIANCE TO THE SHOGUN COMPARED TO THAT, WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?

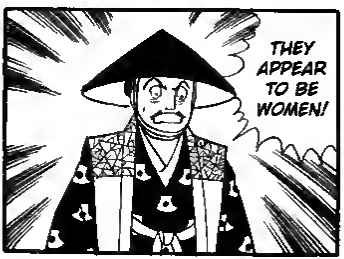
WHAT IS IT?

HUH?

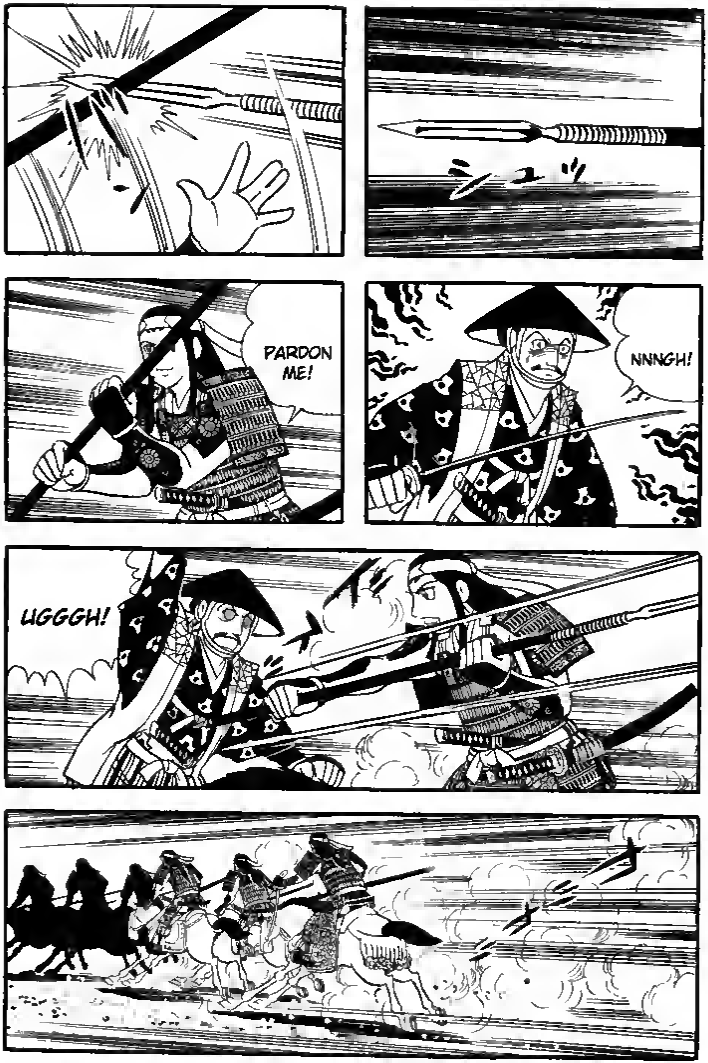
STAY ON YOUR GUARD! THEY MAY BE BANDITS!



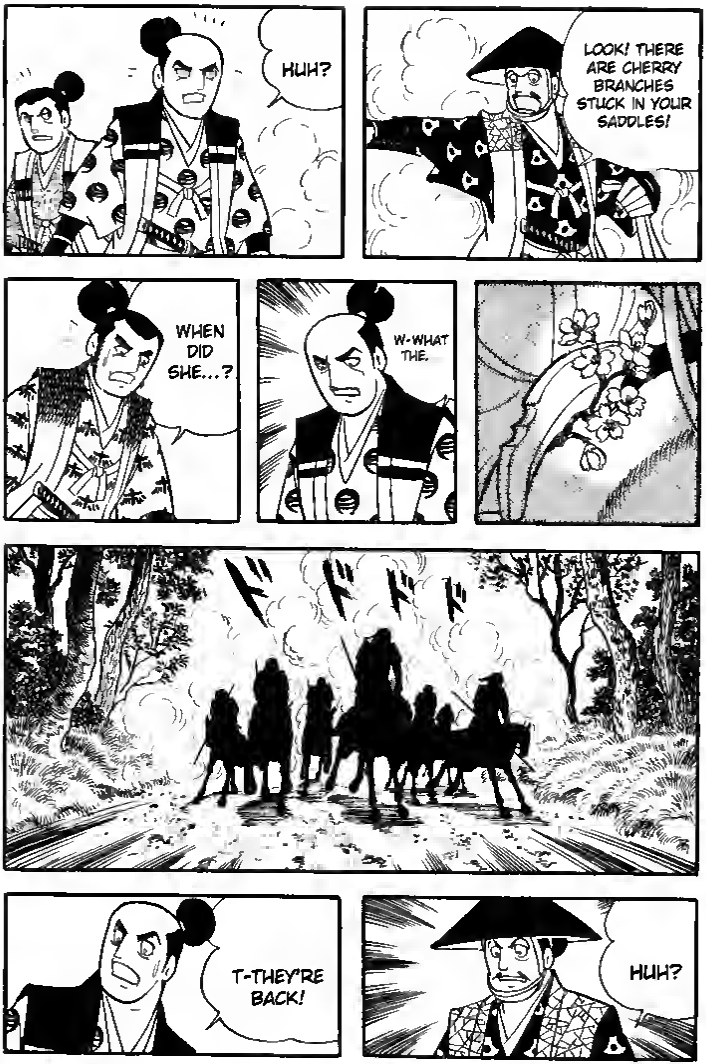

WOMEN WAR-RIORS!

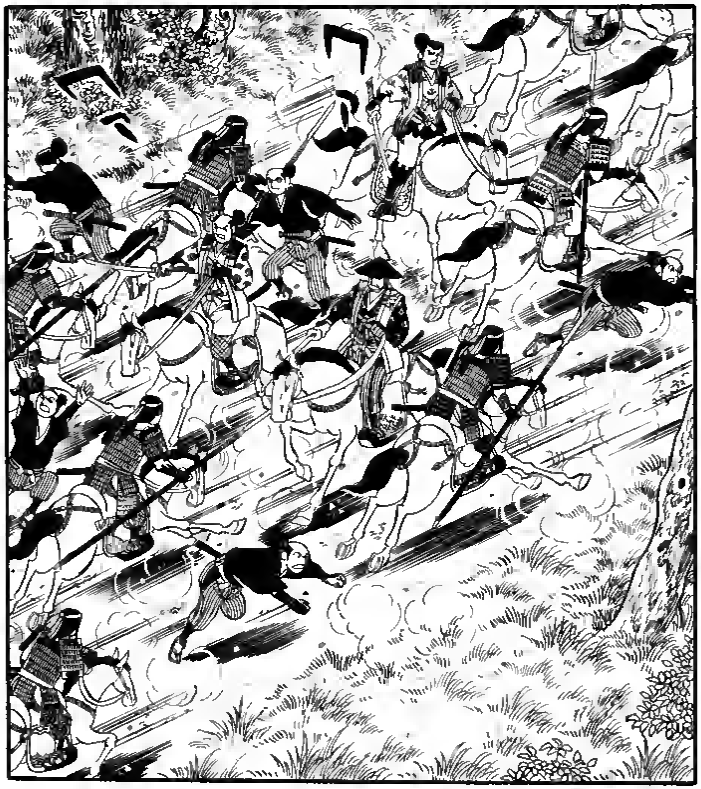

THEY APPEAR TO BE WOMEN!

It was Satomi who rode at the head.
YOW WCH!


PARDON ME!
NNNGH!
UGGGH!

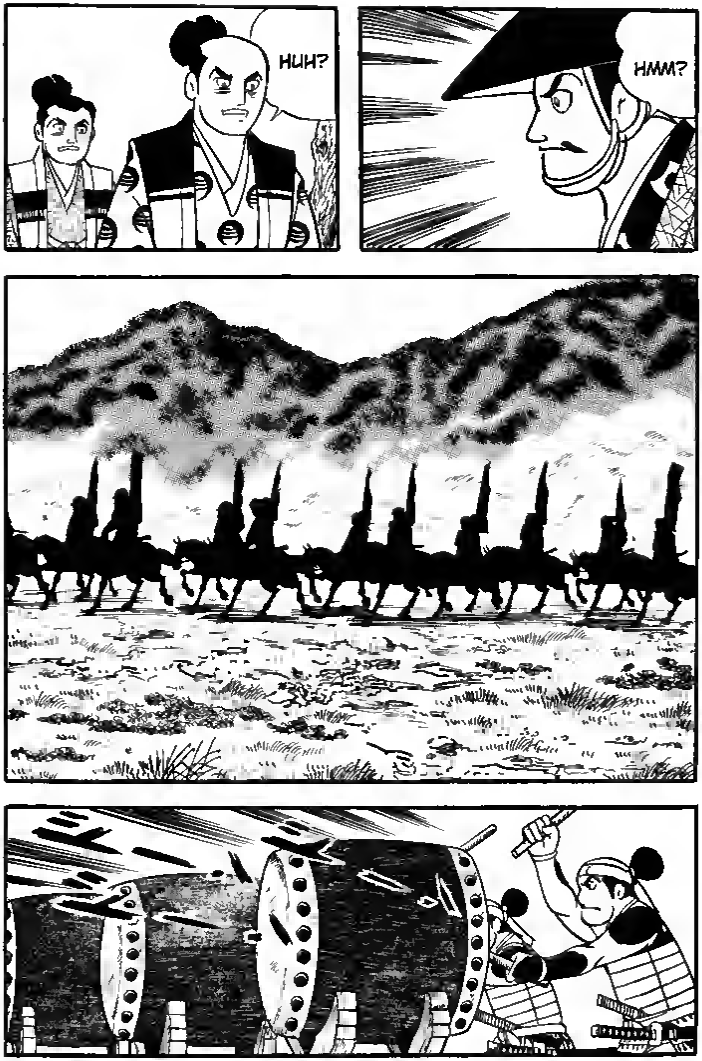
OUCH...
HUH?

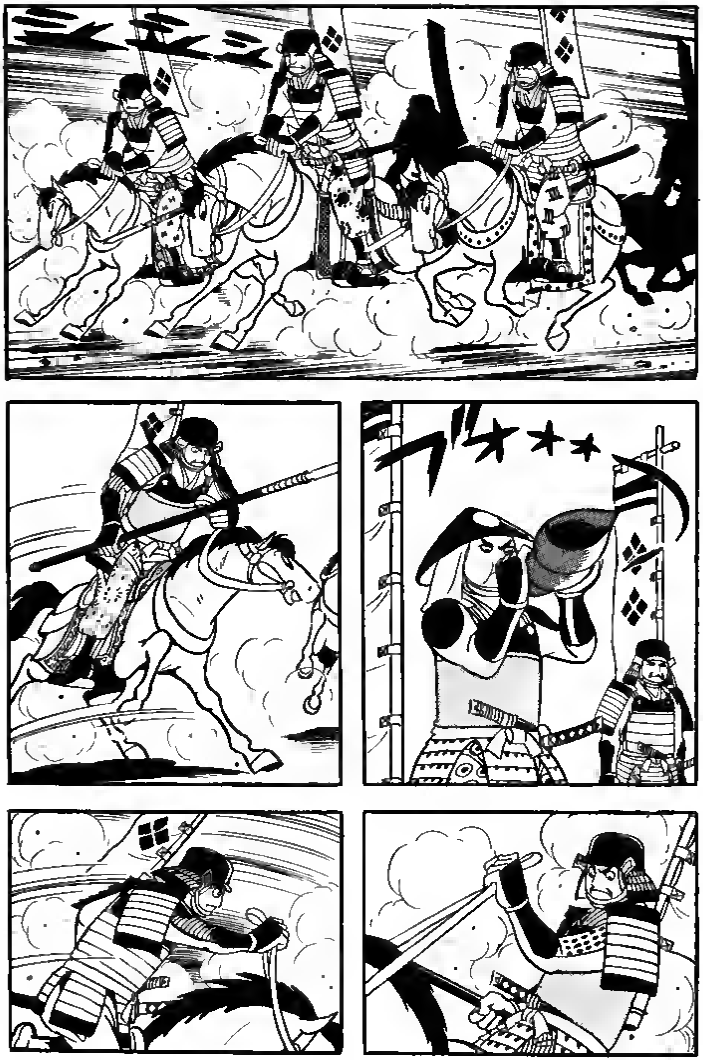

HUH?
LOOK! THERE ARE CHERRY BRANCHES STUCK IN YOUR SADDLES!
WHEN DID SHE...?
W-WHAT THE.
ドドドド
T-THEY'RE BACK!
HUH?

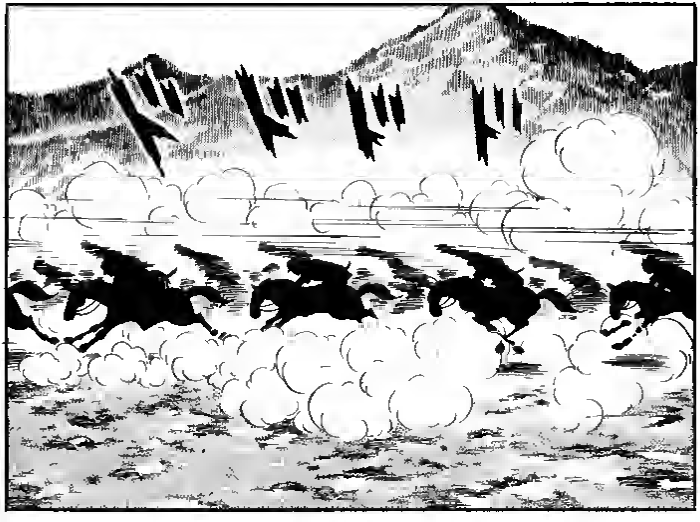


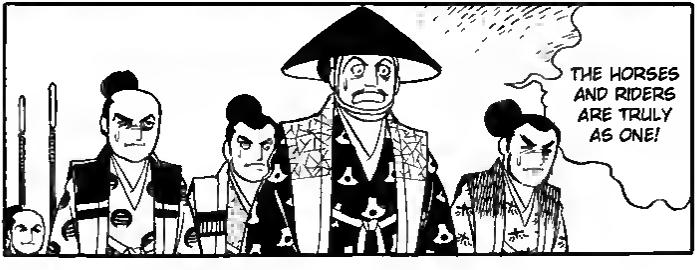
WHOA!
HUH?
I HAVE COME TO WELCOME YOU IN THE NAME OF LORD HARUNOBU. MY NAME IS SATOMI. WE OFFER YOU A SINGLE CHERRY BRANCH EACH, TO CONSOLE YOU FROM YOUR LONG JOURNEY. WE HOPE YOU CAN ACCEPT THEM.
SO IS MINE...
THE CHERRY BRANCH THEY PUT IN MY SADDLE IS GONE!

Y-YES.
NOW ALLOW ME TO SHOW YOU TO KOFU.
THE HORSEMANSHIP OF KAI IS FRIGHTENING...
KOFU IS JUST THIS WAY.


HUH?
HMM?


ミキミキ
ブオオオ

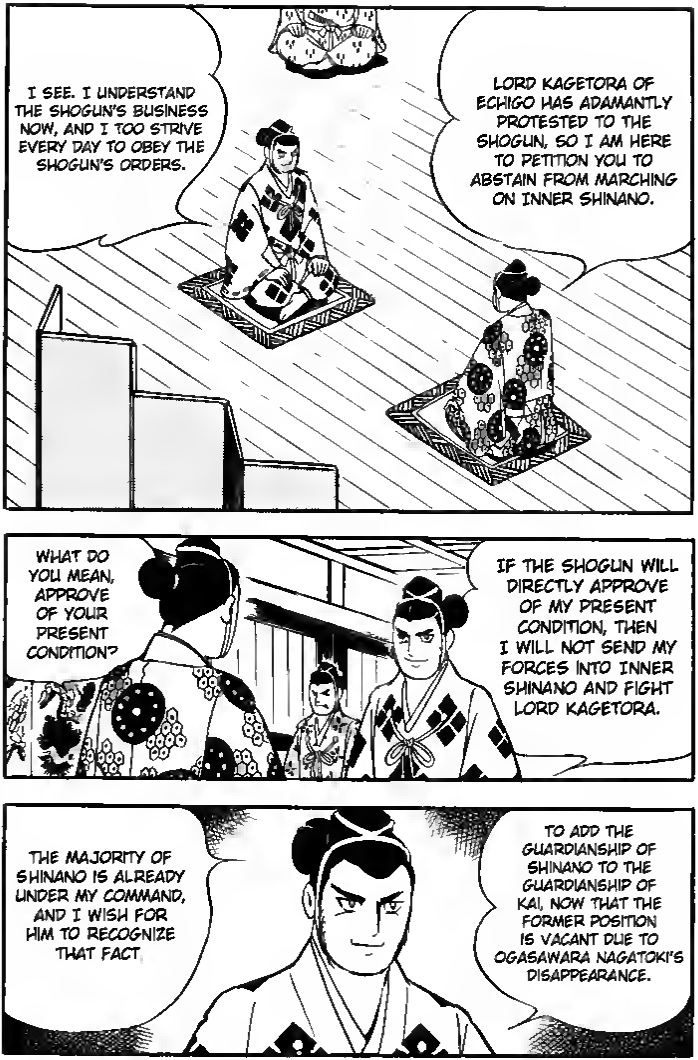



THE HORSES AND RIDERS ARE TRULY AS ONE!

NO... I-I AM IMPRESSED... W-WELL DONE...
I AM ASHAMED THAT YOU HAD TO SEE SUCH AN UNSIGHTLY DRILL ON THE DAY OF YOUR ARRIVAL.
WELL, WELL! I WELCOME YOU!
Y...YES.
I SHALL GUIDE YOU TO TSUTSU-JI-GA-SAKI.

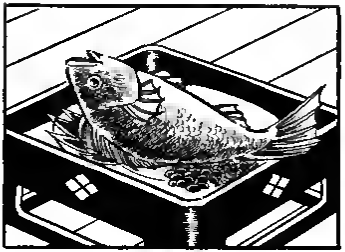
OH, NO, THE PLEASURE IS MINE I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING WHAT KIND OF MAN LORD TAKEDA HARUNOBU, THE SO-CALLED "TIGER OF KAI", WAS
IT IS VERY KIND OF YOU TO COME HERE ALL THE WAY FROM KYOTO.

WELL...
SO, WHAT BUSINESS DO YOU HAVE ALL THE WAY HERE IN KAI...?

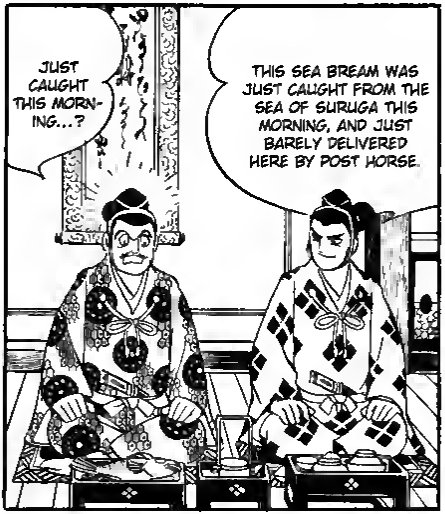

I SEE. I UNDERSTAND THE SHOGUN'S BUSINESS NOW, AND I TOO STRIVE EVERY DAY TO OBEY THE SHOGUN'S ORDERS.
LORD KAGETORA OF ECHIGO HAS ADAMANTLY PROTESTED TO THE SHOGUN, SO I AM HERE TO PETITION YOU TO ABSTAIN FROM MARCHING ON INNER SHINANO.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, APPROVE OF YOUR PRESENT CONDITION?
IF THE SHOGUN WILL DIRECTLY APPROVE OF MY PRESENT CONDITION, THEN I WILL NOT SEND MY FORCES INTO INNER SHINANO AND FIGHT LORD KAGETORA.
THE MAJORITY OF SHINANO IS ALREADY UNDER MY COMMAND, AND I WISH FOR HIM TO RECOGNIZE THAT FACT.
TO ADD THE GUARDIANSHIP OF SHINANO TO THE GUARDIANSHIP OF KAI, NOW THAT THE FORMER POSITION IS VACANT DUE TO OGASAWARA NAGATOKI'S DISAPPEARANCE.

PLEASE DO.
OF COURSE. I FULLY UNDERSTAND. I WILL TELL THE SHOGUN.
YES, MY LORD!
YOU THERE! OUR DISCUSSION IS OVER! PREPARE THE FEAST!

T-THIS IS AN EXTRAORDINARY SEA BREAM! WHERE EVER DID YOU CATCH IT?

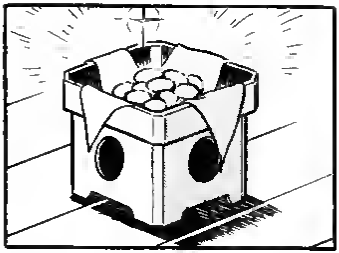


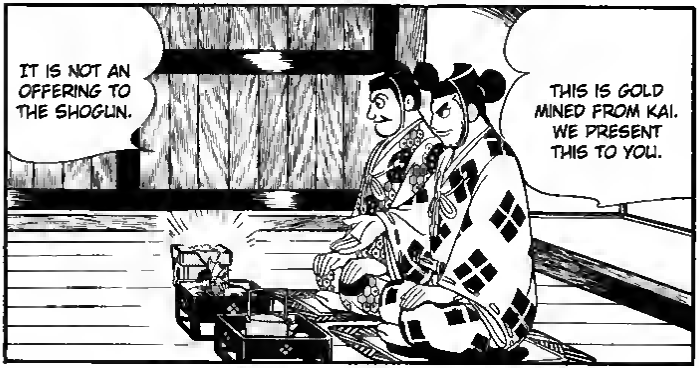
IF IT DOES NOT SUIT YOUR FANCY, I WILL HAVE THEM CATCH A FISH OF YOUR CHOOSING TOMORROW.

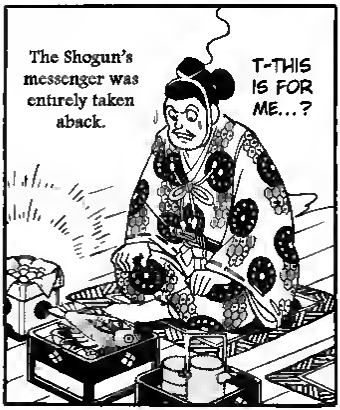

JUST CAUGHT THIS MORNING...?
THIS SEA BREAM WAS JUST CAUGHT FROM THE SEA OF SURUGA THIS MORNING, AND JUST BARELY DELIVERED HERE BY POST HORSE.

パク

NO, NO. THIS SEA BREAM IS QUITE FINE.




IT IS NOT AN OFFERING TO THE SHOGUN.
THIS IS GOLD MINED FROM KAI. WE PRESENT THIS TO YOU.


The Shogun's messenger was entirely taken aback.
T-THIS IS FOR ME...?

NO, IN FACT, THIS IS FOR YOU... TO THE SHOGUN WE OFFER A HUNDRED ROLLS OF KAI SILK.

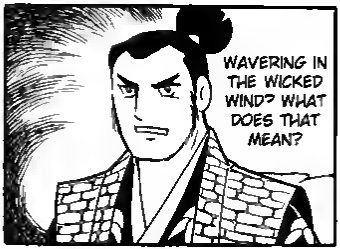
TAKEDA SHINGEN

TRANSLATED BY SYSTEMATICCHAOS
PROOFING BY ANGELOFCHAOTIX
EDITING BY HIGHTIDE
QC BY KAZUHIKO

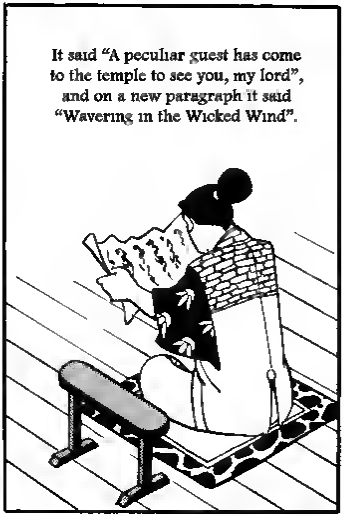
CHAPTER 40

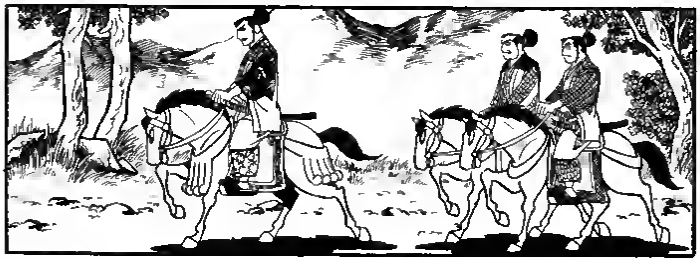
Chapter 42: The "Wavering in the Wicked Wind" Question

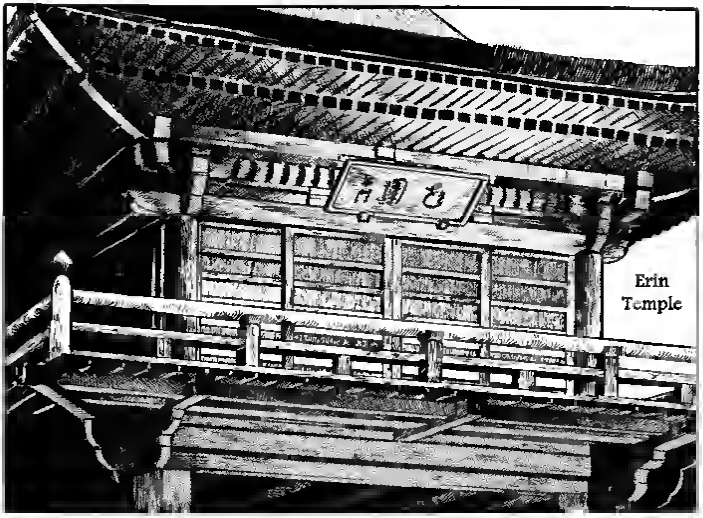
Three days after the Shogun's messenger left, a letter from Hosei of Erin Temple came in.

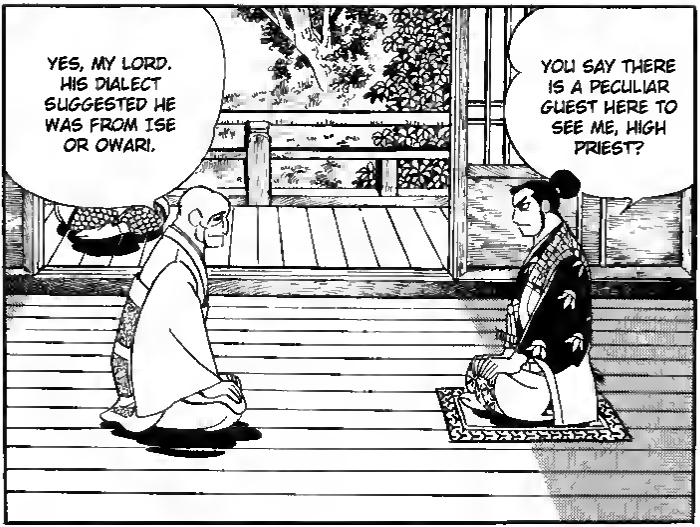

WAVERING IN THE WICKED WIND? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

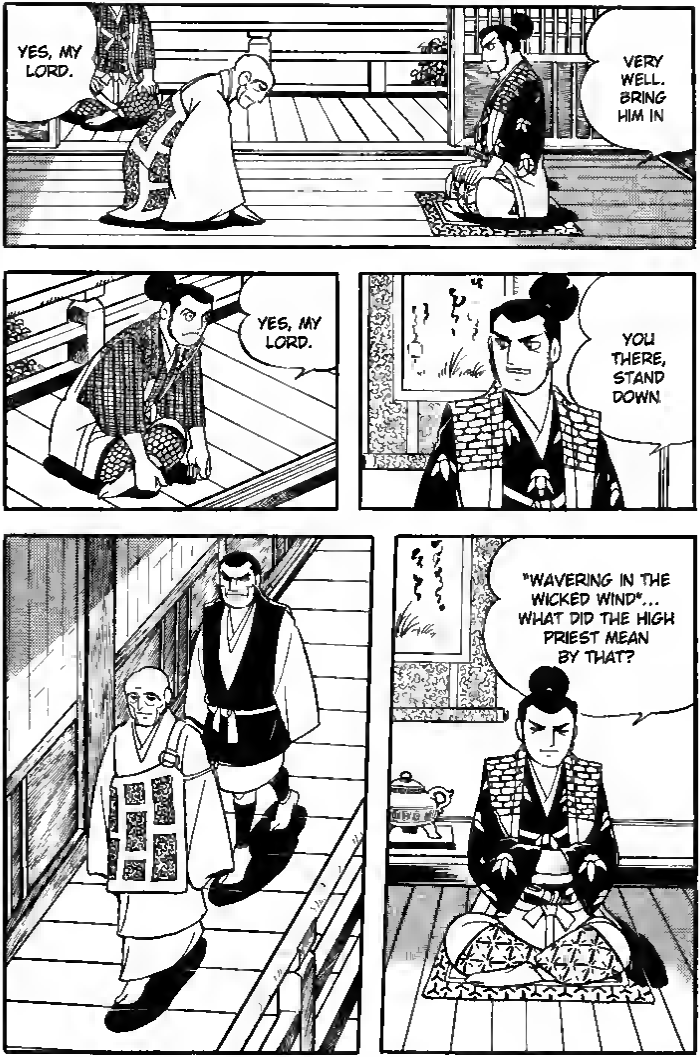
I SUPPOSE I SHOULD GO SEE THIS MAN.

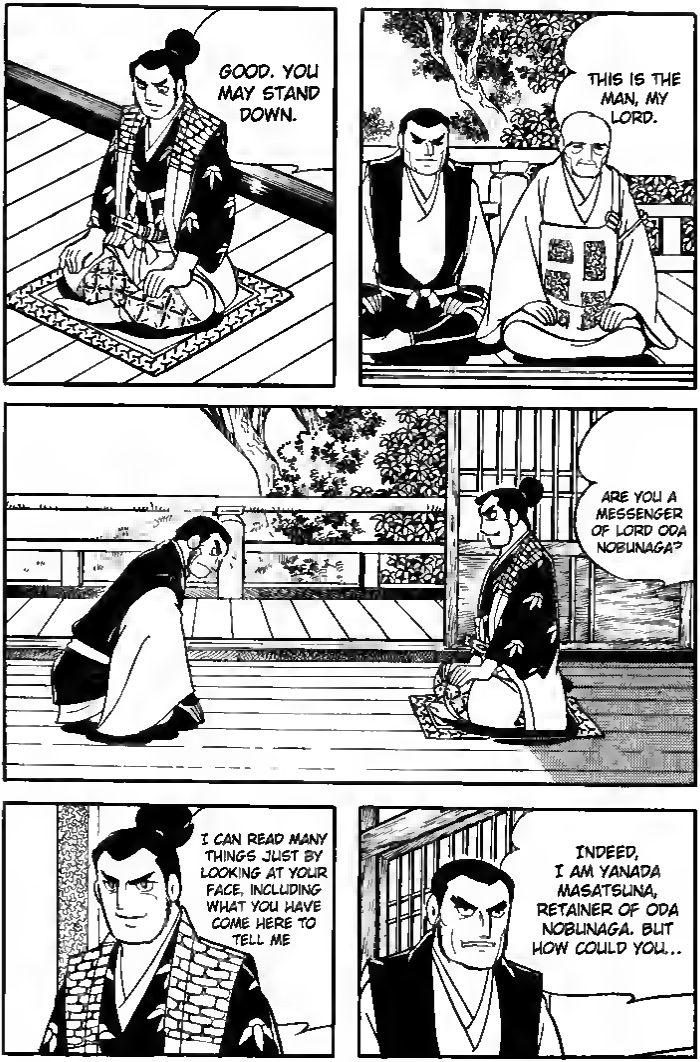

It said "A peculiar guest has come to the temple to see you, my lord", and on a new paragraph it said "Wavering in the Wicked Wind".

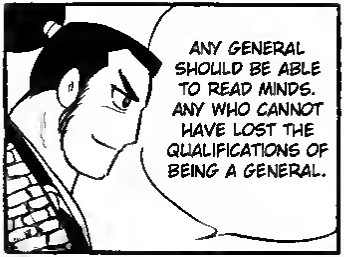


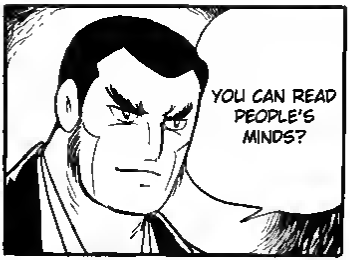

Erin
Temple

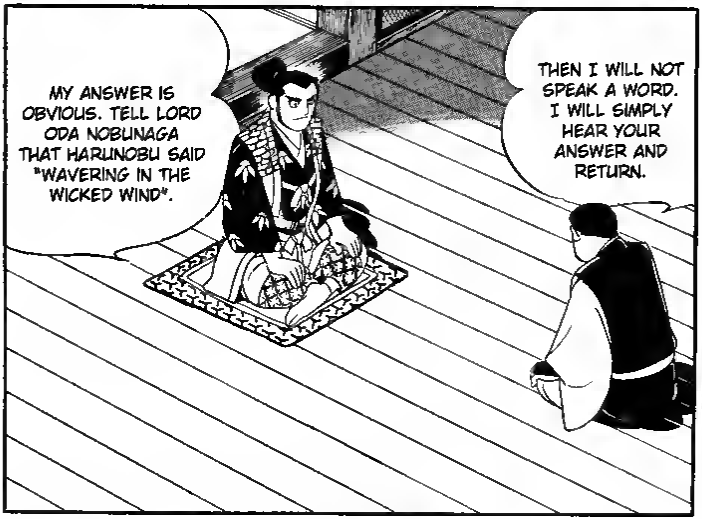

YOU SAY THERE IS A PECULIAR GUEST HERE TO SEE ME, HIGH PRIEST?
YES, MY LORD. HIS DIALECT SUGGESTED HE WAS FROM ISE OR OWARI.

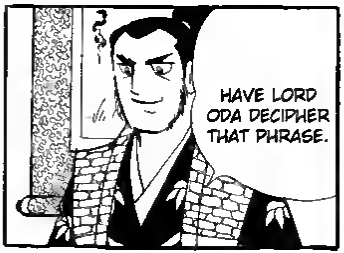

YES, MY LORD.
VERY WELL. BRING HIM IN
YES, MY LORD.
YOU THERE, STAND DOWN
"WAVERING IN THE WICKED WIND"... WHAT DID THE HIGH PRIEST MEAN BY THAT?


GOOD. YOU MAY STAND DOWN.
THIS IS THE MAN, MY LORD.
ARE YOU A MESSENGER OF LORD ODA NOBUNAGA?
I CAN READ MANY THINGS JUST BY LOOKING AT YOUR FACE, INCLUDING WHAT YOU HAVE COME HERE TO TELL ME
INDEED, I AM YANADA MASATSUNA, RETAINER OF ODA NOBUNAGA. BUT HOW COULD YOU...


ANY GENERAL SHOULD BE ABLE TO READ MINDS. ANY WHO CANNOT HAVE LOST THE QUALIFICATIONS OF BEING A GENERAL.

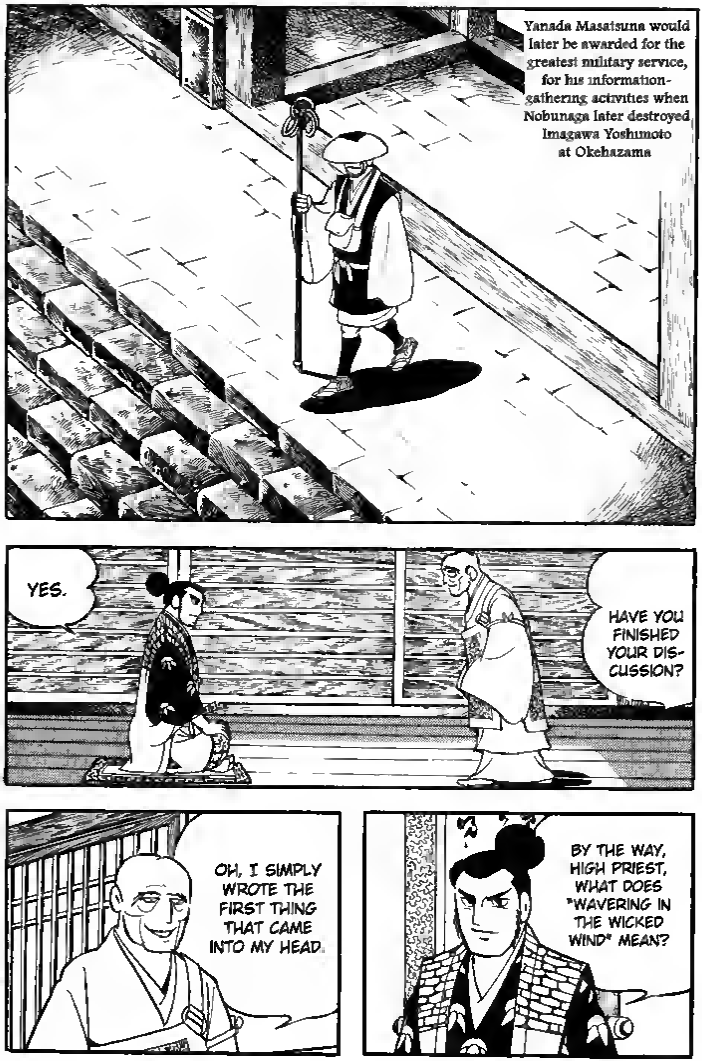

YOU CAN READ PEOPLE'S MINDS?


MY ANSWER IS OBVIOUS. TELL LORD ODA NOBUNAGA THAT HARUNOBU SAID "WAVERING IN THE WICKED WIND".
THEN I WILL NOT SPEAK A WORD. I WILL SIMPLY HEAR YOUR ANSWER AND RETURN.


HAVE LORD ODA DECIPHER THAT PHRASE.

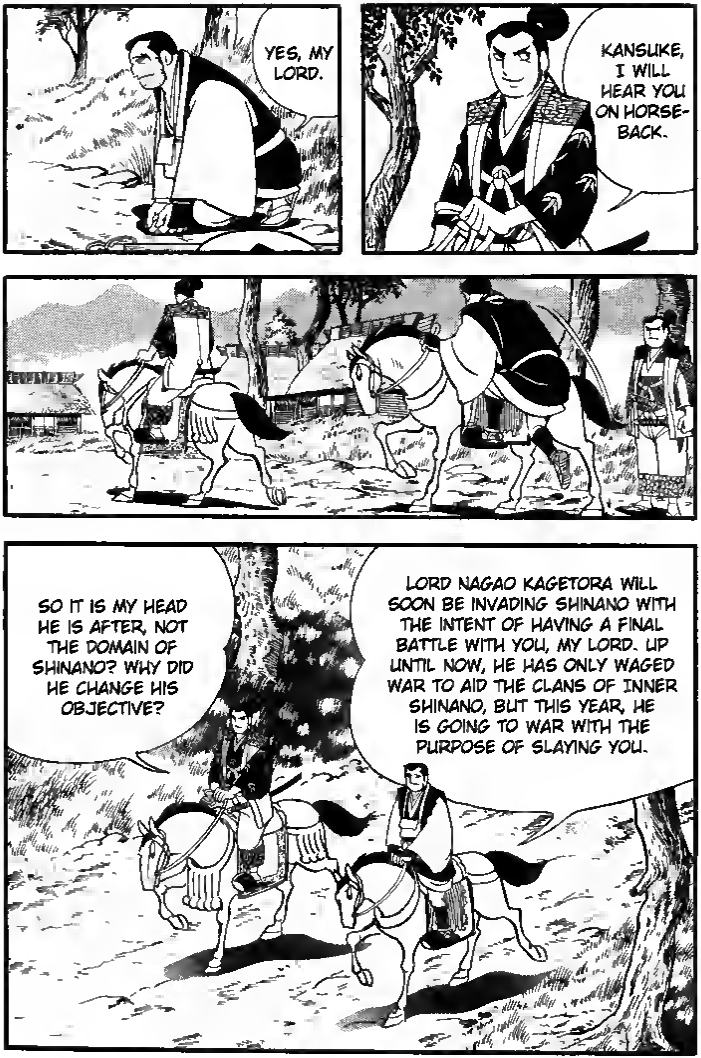
"WAVERING IN THE WICKED WIND"?

MUCH OBLIGED.
NOW I KNOW IT MIGHT BE STRANGE TO ASK FOR YOUR BUSINESS AFTER GIVING MY ANSWER, BUT YOU WILL NOT SERVE YOUR ROLE AS A MESSENGER IF I DO NOT ASK, AND LORD ODA WILL SURELY SCOLD YOU FOR IT.
OH? IS LORD ODA AWARE THAT HIS FATAL FOE, LORD IMAGAWA YOSHIMOTO, IS ALREADY IN AN ALLIANCE WITH ME?
LORD ODA NOBUNAGA WISHES TO FORM A FRIENDLY RELATION WITH YOU, LORD TAKEDA HARUNOBU.
HAHAHA!
THUS HE WISHES TO FORM THIS FRIENDSHIP IN SECRET AND DESTROY IMAGAWA YOSHIMOTO...
YES, SIR. I WILL TELL HIM THAT.
MY ANSWER IS THE SAME: "WAVERING IN THE WICKED WIND".

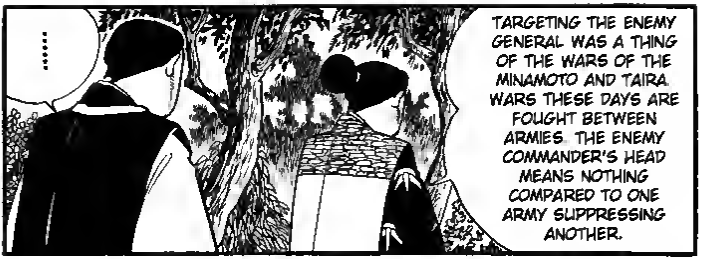

Yanada Masatsuna would later be awarded for the greatest military service, for his information-gathering activities when Nobunaga later destroyed Imagawa Yoshimoto at Okehazama
YES.
HAVE YOU FINISHED YOUR DISCUSSION?
OH, I SIMPLY WROTE THE FIRST THING THAT CAME INTO MY HEAD.
BY THE WAY, HIGH PRIEST, WHAT DOES "WAVERING IN THE WICKED WIND" MEAN?

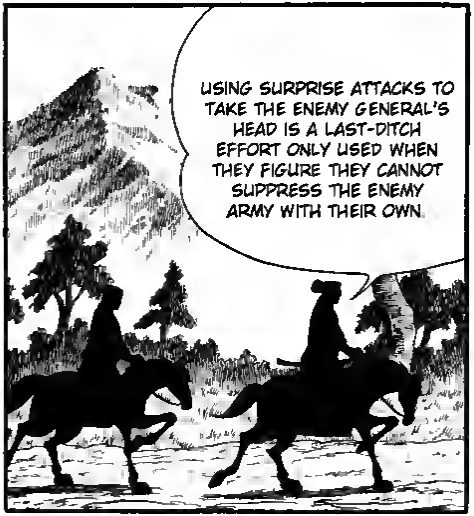
FEIGNING IGNO-RANCE, ARE YOU?
AND HOW DID YOU INTERPRET IT, MY LORD?
YES, MY LORD!
WE'RE LEAVING!

MY LORD!
KANSUKE? YOU'VE GROWN THIN.
I AM KANSUKE.
YES, MY LORD.
YOU. GIVE KANSUKE YOUR HORSE.

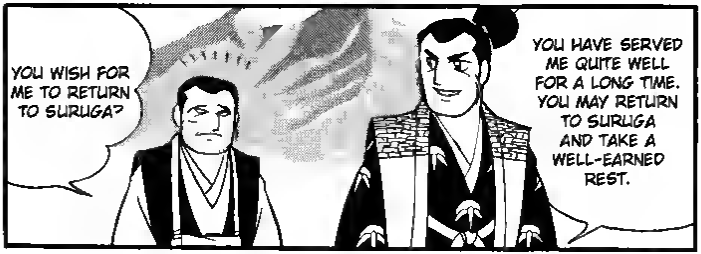

YES, MY LORD.
KANSUKE, I WILL HEAR YOU ON HORSE-BACK.
SO IT IS MY HEAD HE IS AFTER, NOT THE DOMAIN OF SHINANO? WHY DID HE CHANGE HIS OBJECTIVE?
LORD NAGAO KAGETORA WILL SOON BE INVADING SHINANO WITH THE INTENT OF HAVING A FINAL BATTLE WITH YOU, MY LORD. UP UNTIL NOW, HE HAS ONLY WAGED WAR TO AID THE CLANS OF INNER SHINANO, BUT THIS YEAR, HE IS GOING TO WAR WITH THE PURPOSE OF SLAYING YOU.

LORD KAGETORA IS SURE TO LEAD HIS ELITES TO STRIKE AT YOUR MAIN CAMP THIS YEAR. IT WILL NOT BE A BATTLE BETWEEN ARMIES, BUT A BATTLE WITH YOU AS THE SOLE TARGET.
LORD KAGETORA HAS THE ASPIRATION TO SUBJUGATE THE NATION, AND YOUR PRESENCE IS HIS GREATEST HINDRANCE TO CONQUEST.
YES, MY LORD. THAT I DID.
YOU ONCE CALLED KAGETORA A GENIUS, DID YOU NOT?
YOU HAVE WON...?
I SUPPOSE THIS "GENIUS" IS SURPRISINGLY SHORT-SIGHTED. I HAVE WON THIS BATTLE ALREADY.


.....
TARGETING THE ENEMY GENERAL WAS A THING OF THE WARS OF THE MINAMOTO AND TAIRA. WARS THESE DAYS ARE FOUGHT BETWEEN ARMIES. THE ENEMY COMMANDER'S HEAD MEANS NOTHING COMPARED TO ONE ARMY SUPPRESSING ANOTHER.

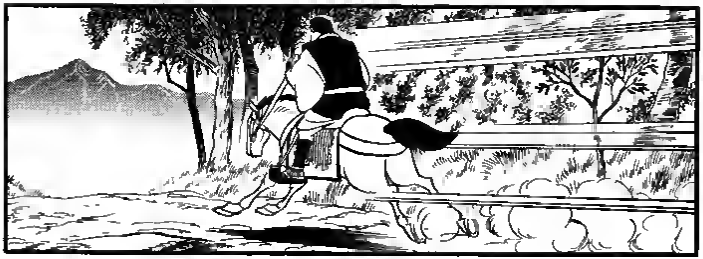

USING SURPRISE ATTACKS TO TAKE THE ENEMY GENERAL'S HEAD IS A LAST-DITCH EFFORT ONLY USED WHEN THEY FIGURE THEY CANNOT SUPPRESS THE ENEMY ARMY WITH THEIR OWN.

MURAKAMI YOSHIKIYO AND OGASAWARA NAGATOKI ARE GOOD EXAMPLES. WHO WOULD WANT THEIR HEADS ANYMORE?

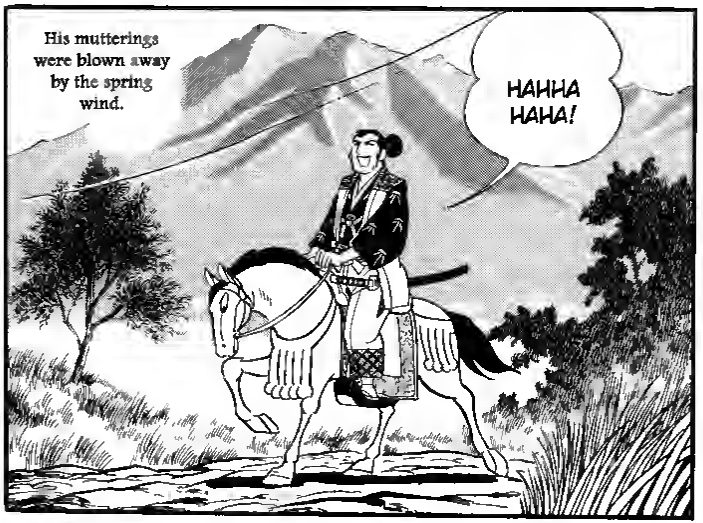

YOU WISH FOR ME TO RETURN TO SURUGA?
YOU HAVE SERVED ME QUITE WELL FOR A LONG TIME. YOU MAY RETURN TO SURUGA AND TAKE A WELL-EARNED REST.

YOU HAVE NOT SEEN YOUR FAMILY IN SUNPU FOR A LONG TIME, HAVE YOU?
I SUPPOSE THE MASTER CONSIDERS ME TO BE IMAGAWA'S MAN
I MUST FIND A WAY TO RELOCATE YOUR FAMILY TO KOFU.
Y-YES, MY LORD!
LET'S SEE .. I WILL HAVE YOU DO ONE MORE THING FOR ME BEFORE I RELOCATE THEM TO KOFU.
PLEASE DO, MY LORD! I WILL ACCEPT ANY HARDSHIP IF YOU WILL DO SO!

I WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THIS ODA NOBUNAGA OF OWARI, WHO HAS SUDDENLY REARED HIS HEAD AS OF LATE
WHAT KIND OF JOB IS IT?
YES, MY LORD.
AND SO I WANT YOU TO TRAVEL AROUND THE ISE, OWARI, AND MINO AREA.
YANADA MASATSUNA, YOU SAY?
OH, YES. JUST RECENTLY, ONE OF ODA'S RETAINERS, YANADA MASATSUNA, CAME TO SEE ME IN A PRIEST'S GARB. HE IS A DARK MAN. EVERYTHING WILL GO WELL IF YOU MAKE USE OF HIM.
THEN I WILL BE BORROWING THIS HORSE.



WAVERING IN THE WICKED WIND... I SEE. KAGETORA IS WAVERING IN THE WICKED WIND, AND I HAVE BEGUN TO WAVER IN THE EVIL WIND MYSELF.

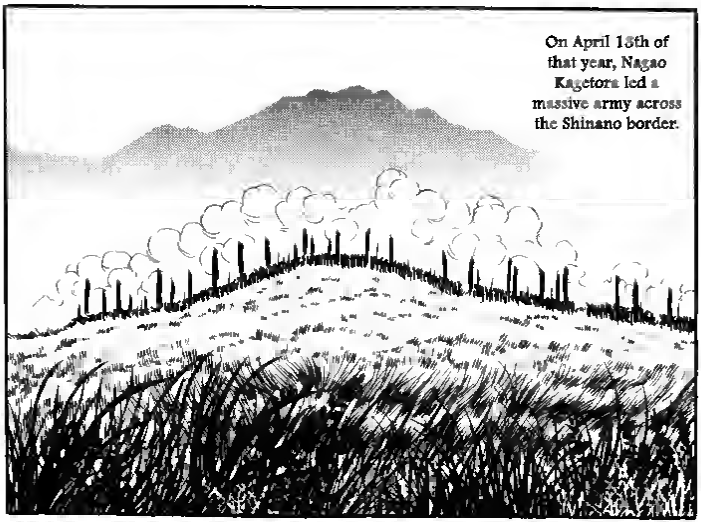

His mutterings were blown away by the spring wind.
HAHHA HAHA!

TAKEDA SHINGEN

TRANSLATED BY SYSTEMATICCHAOS
PROOFING BY ANGELOFCHAOTIX
EDITING BY HIGHTIDE
QC BY KAZUHIKO

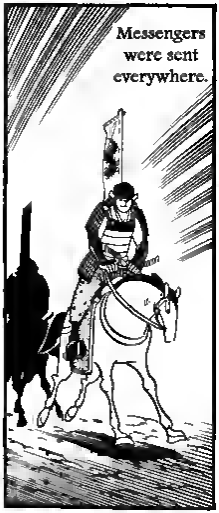
CHAPTER 41

Chapter 43: Harunobu the Phantom



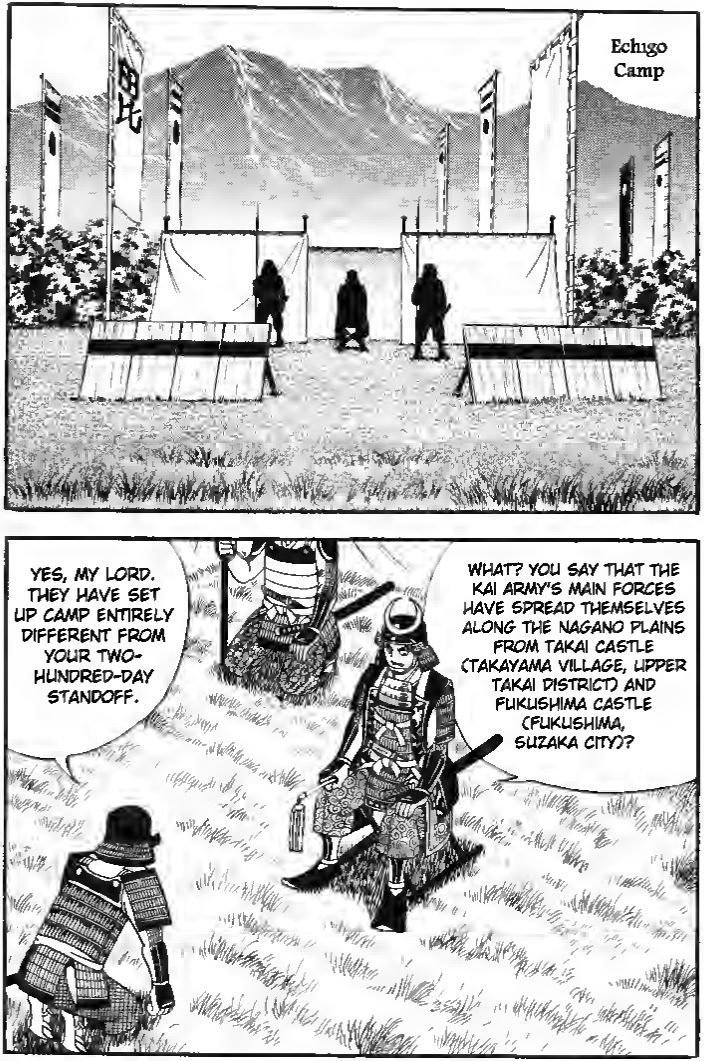
I SEE. ACCORDING TO KANSUKE'S REPORT, KAGETORA WILL BE AFTER MY HEAD THIS TIME.

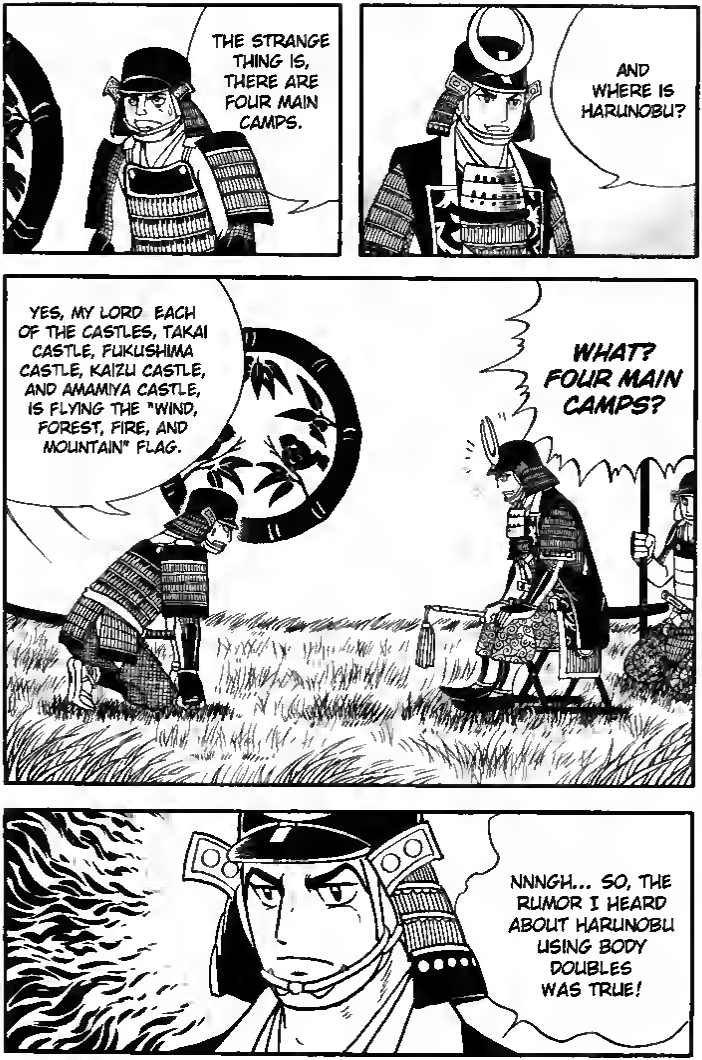
WHAT? KAGETORA IS ON THE MOVE?


Messengers were sent everywhere.

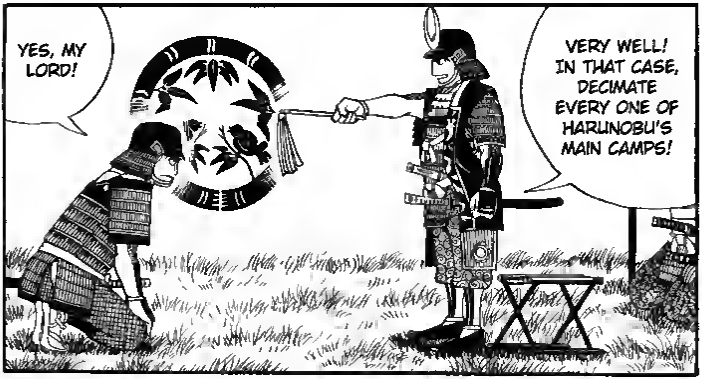
YES, MY LORD!

SEND MESSENGERS TO EVERY GENERAL AT ONCE! TELL THEM NOT TO ACT UNLESS I GIVE THE ORDER!

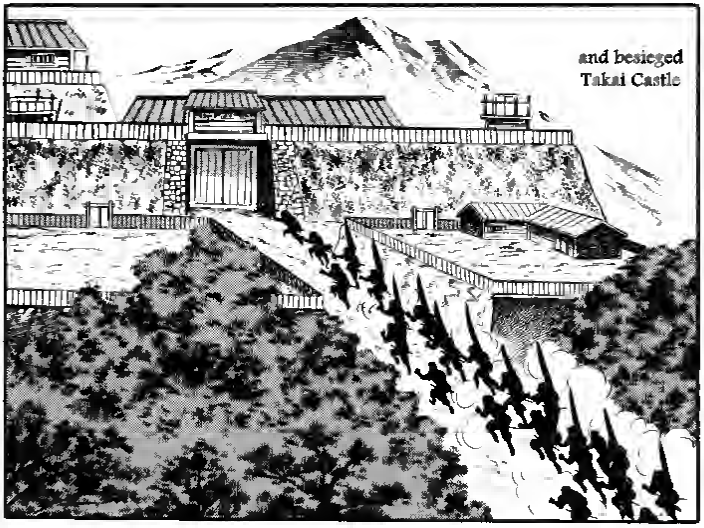

Echigo Camp
YES, MY LORD. THEY HAVE SET UP CAMP ENTIRELY DIFFERENT FROM YOUR TWO-HUNDRED-DAY STANDOFF.
WHAT? YOU SAY THAT THE KAI ARMY'S MAIN FORCES HAVE SPREAD THEMSELVES ALONG THE NAGANO PLAINS FROM TAKAI CASTLE (TAKAYAMA VILLAGE, UPPER TAKAI DISTRICT) AND FUKUSHIMA CASTLE (FUKUSHIMA, SUZAKA CITY)?


THE STRANGE THING IS, THERE ARE FOUR MAIN CAMPS.
AND WHERE IS HARUNOBU?
YES, MY LORD EACH OF THE CASTLES, TAKAI CASTLE, FUKUSHIMA CASTLE, KAIZU CASTLE, AND AMAMIYA CASTLE, IS FLYING THE "WIND, FOREST, FIRE, AND MOUNTAIN" FLAG.
WHAT? FOUR MAIN CAMPS?
NNNGH... SO, THE RUMOR I HEARD ABOUT HARUNOBU USING BODY DOUBLES WAS TRUE!

I SEE HARUNOBU IS AVOIDING OUR CONFRONTATION!

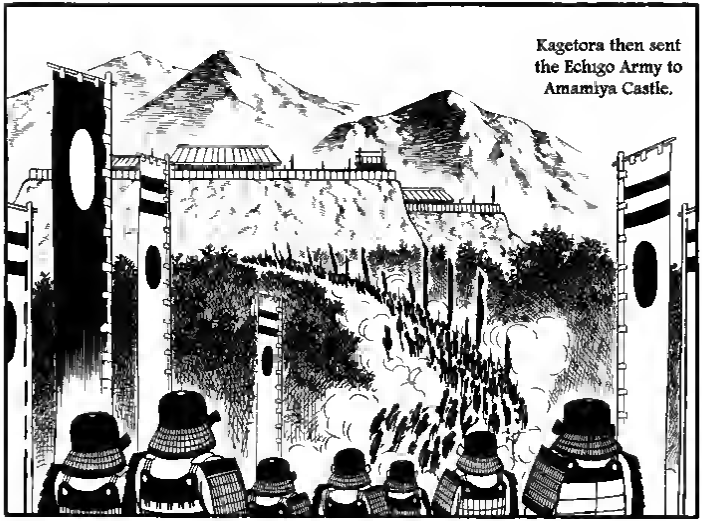

YES, MY LORD!
VERY WELL! IN THAT CASE, DECIMATE EVERY ONE OF HARUNOBU'S MAIN CAMPS!

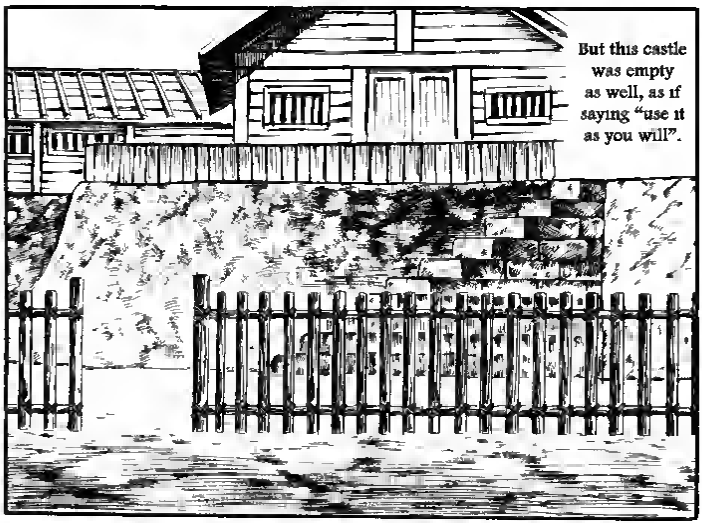
The Echigo army crossed Nagano Plains...

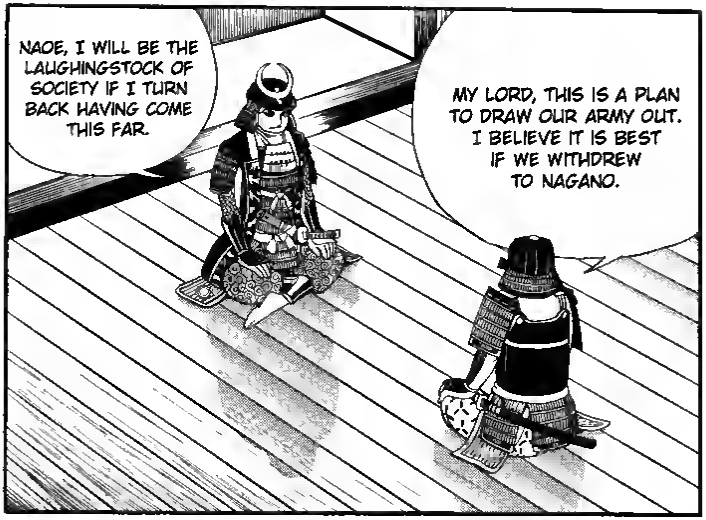

and besieged
Takai Castle

and
Fukushima
Castle first.

But both Takai Castle and Fukushima Castle were empty.
NNNGH... THE DAMNED HARUNOBU IS TOYING WITH ME!
MY LORD! THERE IS NOT EVEN A MOUSE IN THE CASTLE! THEY HAVE TIDIED UP THE CASTLE AND MOVED OUT!

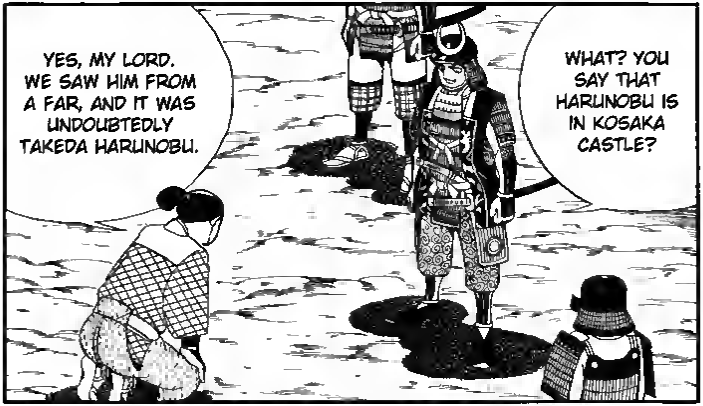

Kagetora then sent the Echigo Army to Amamiya Castle.


But this castle was empty as well, as if saying "use it as you will".

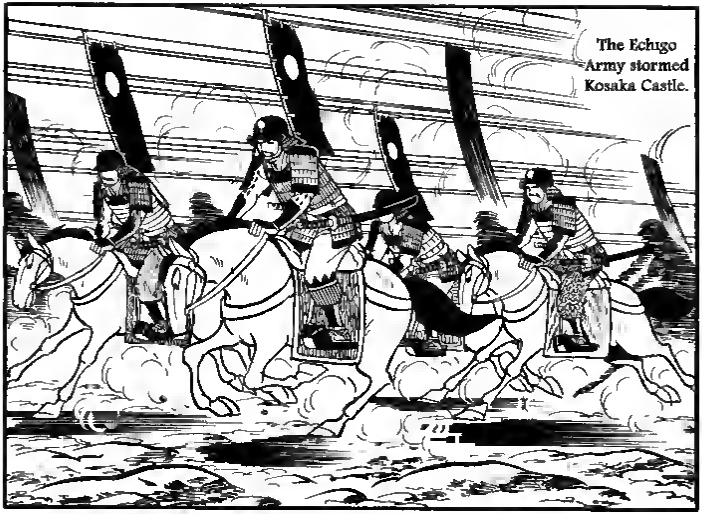

NAOE, I WILL BE THE LAUGHINGSTOCK OF SOCIETY IF I TURN BACK HAVING COME THIS FAR.
MY LORD, THIS IS A PLAN TO DRAW OUR ARMY OUT. I BELIEVE IT IS BEST IF WE WITHDREW TO NAGANO.

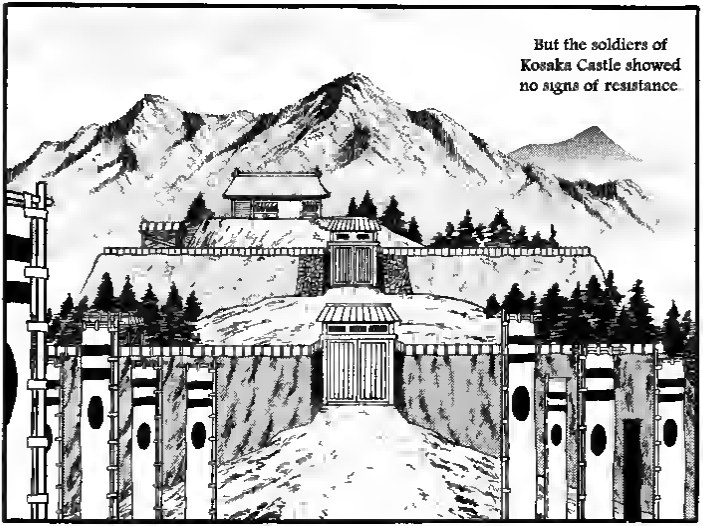
YES, MY LORD!
INCREASE OUR NUMBER OF SPIES AND CONFIRM HARUNOBU'S LOCATION!

HARUNOBU MAY MOCK ME NOW, BUT HE WILL SOON KNOW THAT I AM NOT SUCH A FOOL.


YES, MY LORD. WE SAW HIM FROM A FAR, AND IT WAS UNDOUBTEDLY TAKEDA HARUNOBU.
WHAT? YOU SAY THAT HARUNOBU IS IN KOSAKA CASTLE?

YES, MY LORD!
VERY WELL! BESIEGE KOSAKA CASTLE AT ONCE!

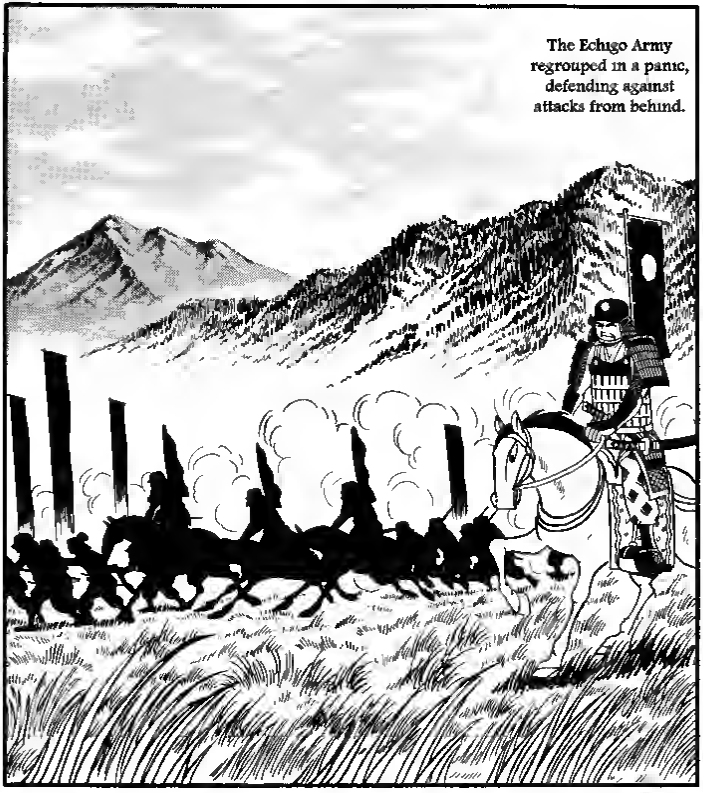

The Echigo
Army stormed
Kosaka Castle.


But the soldiers of
Kosaka Castle showed
no signs of resistance.

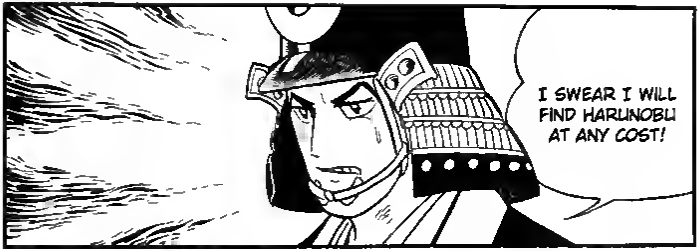
REPORTING IN!
カッカッ
WHAT? THE TAKEDA HAVE ATTACKED FROM BEHIND?
OUR REARGUARD HAS BEEN ATTACKED BY THE TAKEDA ARMY, AND OUR ALLIES ARE IN PANIC!

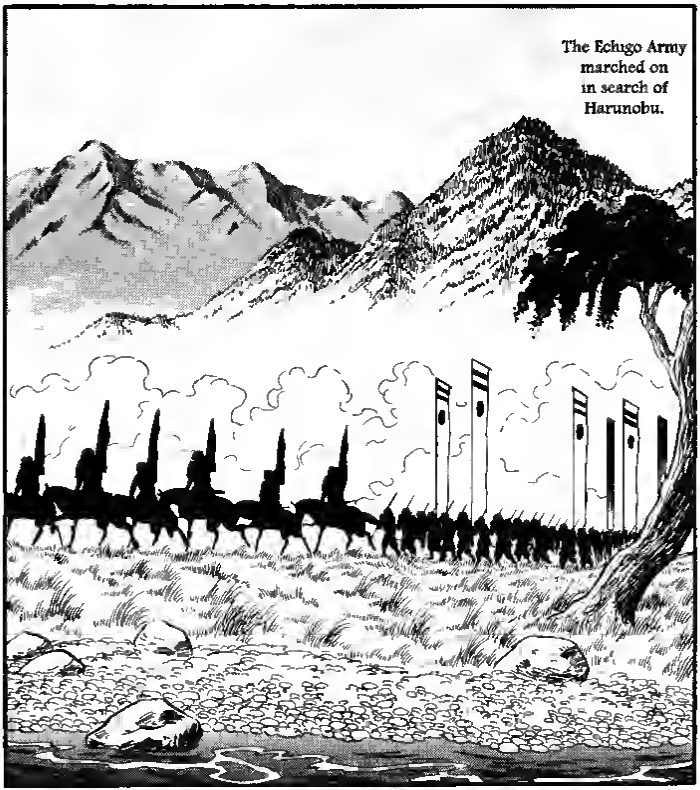
YES, MY LORD!
VERY WELL! LIFT THE SIEGE AND DEFEND OUR REAR!

HE'S USING CLEVER TRICKS... CAN HE NOT FIGHT SQUARE-LY?


The Echigo Army regrouped in a panic, defending against attacks from behind.

But in the meantime, the Kai Army in Kosaka Castle left the castle and fled.
AGAIN? WHAT COULD HARUNOBU BE THINKING?

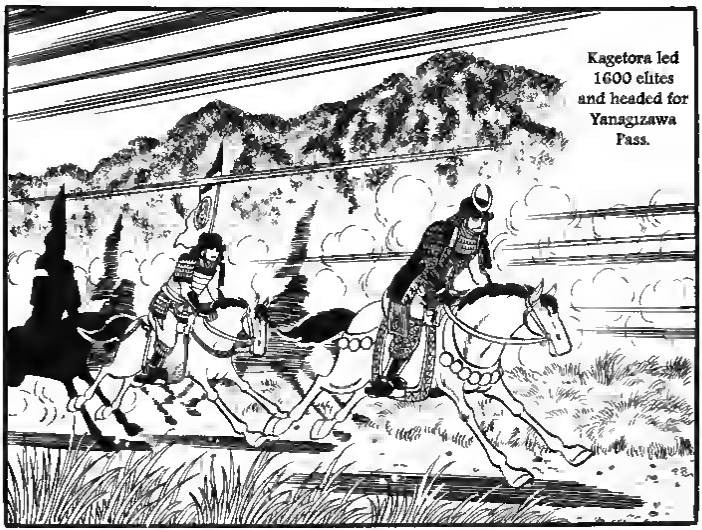

I SWEAR I WILL FIND HARUNOBU AT ANY COST!

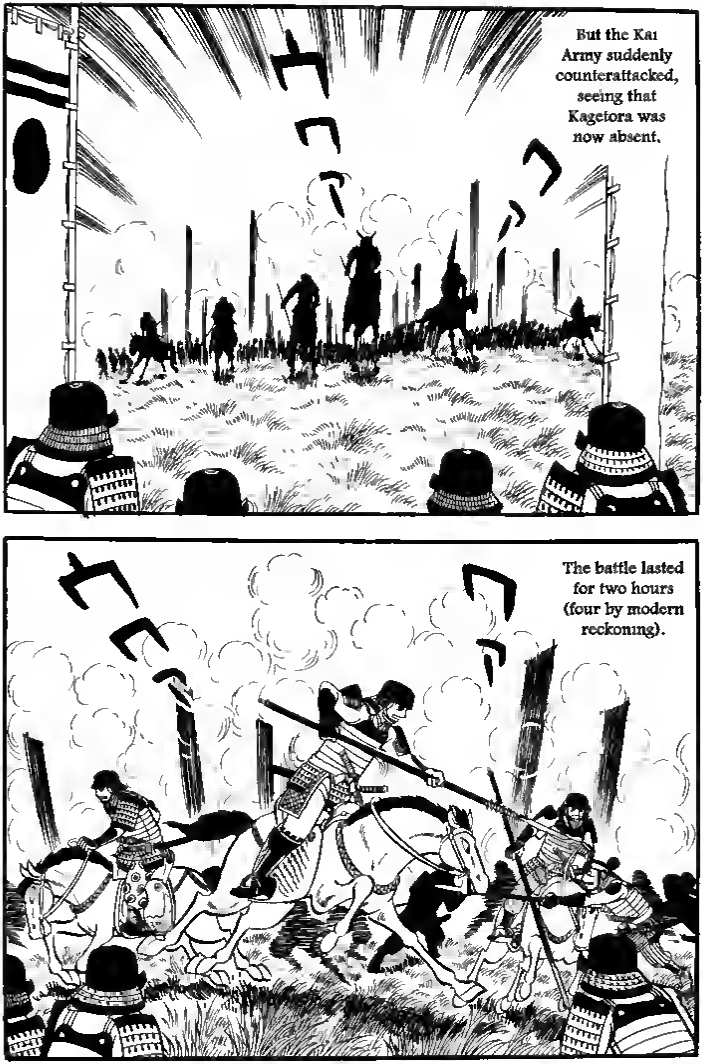

The Echigo Army marched on in search of Harunobu.

ニナニナ
WHAT IS IT?
OTARI CASTLE OF NORTH AZUMI HAS BEEN BESIEGED BY TAKEDA HARUNOBU AND CAPTURED!
WE HAVE A CRISIS!
YES, MY LORD! HARUNOBU HIMSELF WAS LEADING AN ARMY OF FIFTEEN HUNDRED!
WHAT? HARUNOBU IS IN NORTH AZUMI?

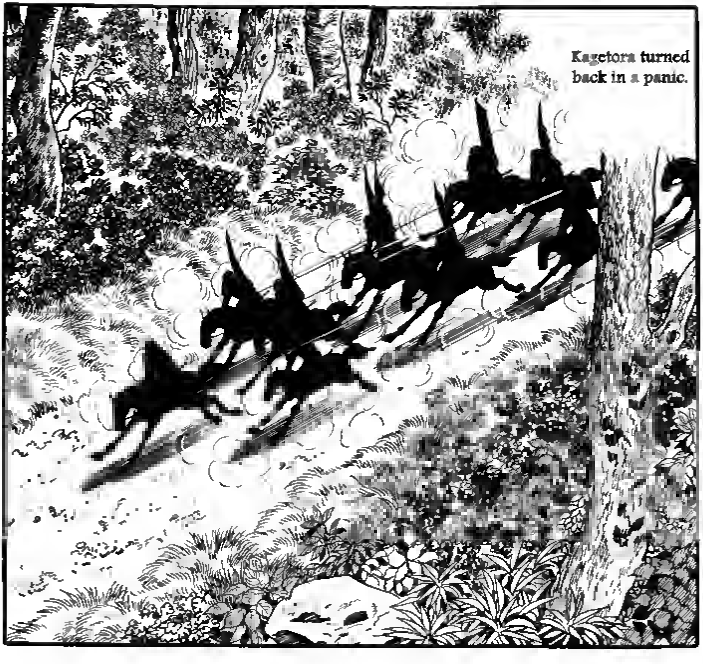
VERY WELL! I SHALL HEAD FOR OTARI CASTLE! THIS TIME I SHALL CONFRONT HARUNOBU!

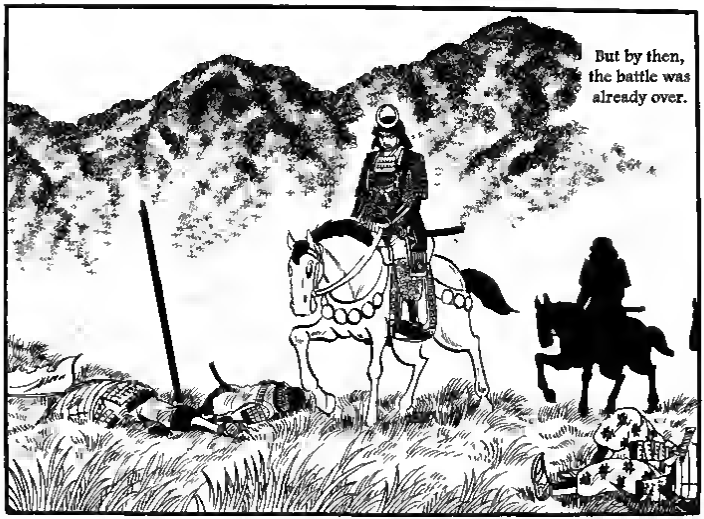
MMMGH ...
MY LORD, OTARI CASTLE IS A STRATEGIC POSITION AT THE MOUTH OF THE ITOI RIVER. IF IT FALLS, THE KAI ARMY WILL BE ABLE TO CROSS YANAGIZAWA PASS FROM NORTH AZUMI, AND CIRCLE TO NAGANO BEHIND US!

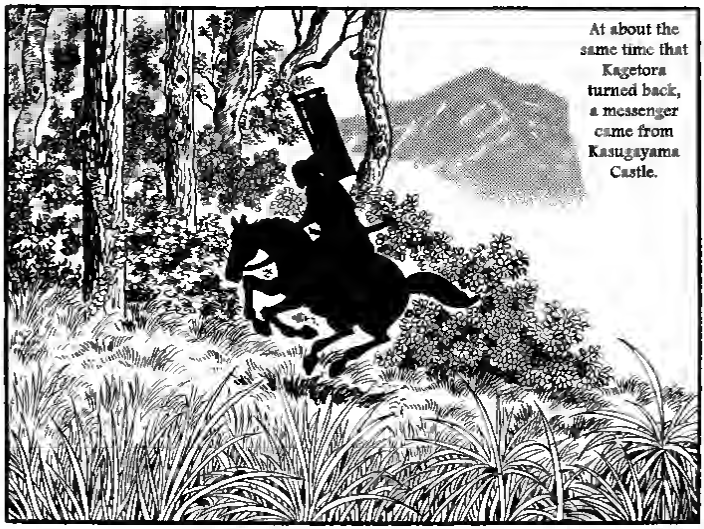

Kagetora led 1600 elites and headed for Yanagizawa Pass.


But the Kai Army suddenly counterattacked, seeing that Kagetora was now absent.
The battle lasted for two hours (four by modern reckoning).

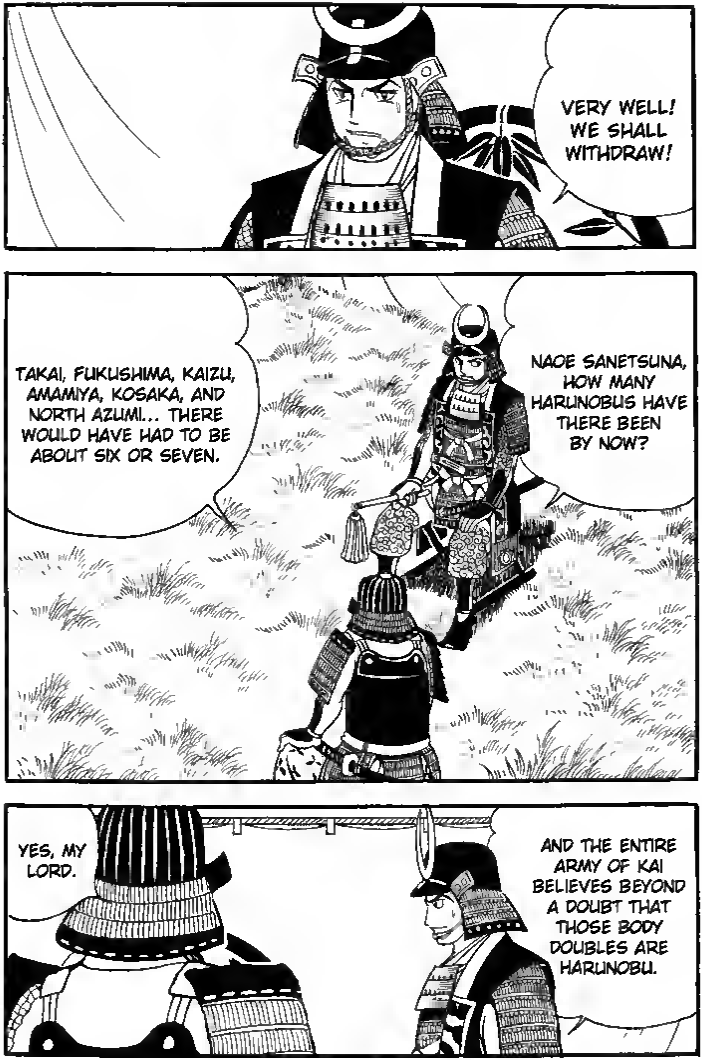
Kagetora was informed of this by runners.


Kagetora turned back in a panic.

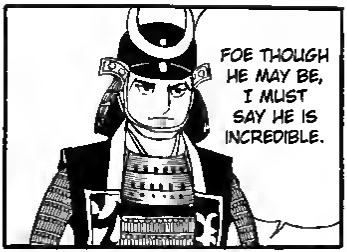

But by then, the battle was already over.

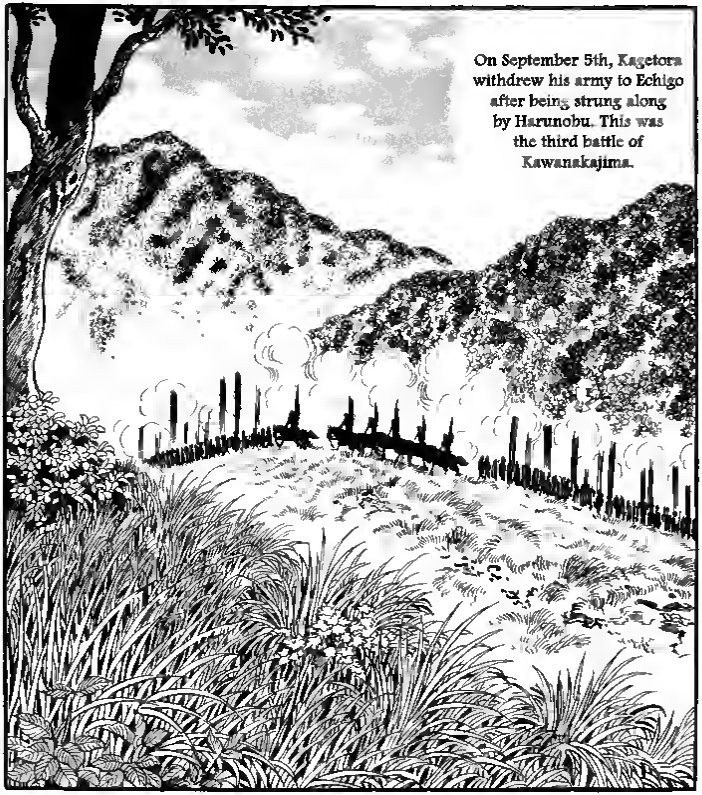

At about the same time that Kagetora turned back, a messenger came from Kasugayama Castle.

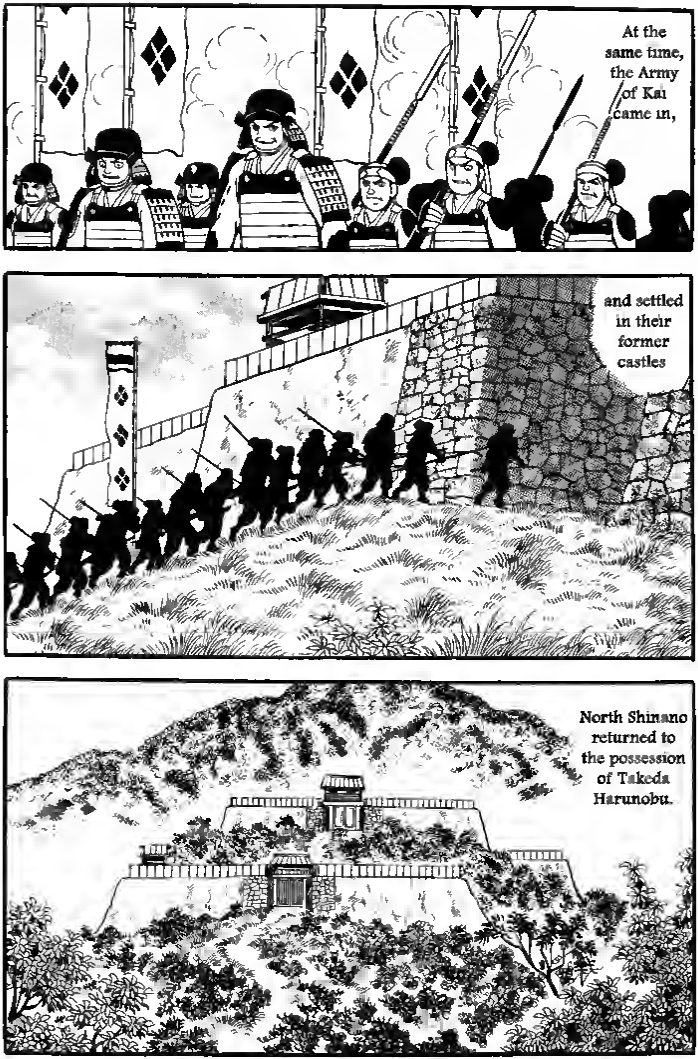
比沙門
WHAT? THE IKKO SECT OF KAGA AND ECCHU ARE SHOWING SIGNS OF STRIKING ECHIGO?
THAT IS NOT ALL. RUMOR HAS IT THAT EMA TOKIMORI OF HIDA IS JOINING TAKEDA HARUNOBU AND WILL MARCH ON ECCHU!
MMMGH...
MY LORD, THE BULK OF ECHIGO'S FORCES IS GATHERED HERE! IF ECHIGO IS ASSAULTED WHILE THEY ARE STILL HERE, WE WILL NOT STAND A CHANCE!


VERY WELL! WE SHALL WITHDRAW!
NAOE SANETSUNA, HOW MANY HARUNOBUS HAVE THERE BEEN BY NOW?
TAKAI, FUKUSHIMA, KAIZU, AMAMIYA, KOSAKA, AND NORTH AZUMI... THERE WOULD HAVE HAD TO BE ABOUT SIX OR SEVEN.
YES, MY LORD.
AND THE ENTIRE ARMY OF KAI BELIEVES BEYOND A DOUBT THAT THOSE BODY DOUBLES ARE HARUNOBU.

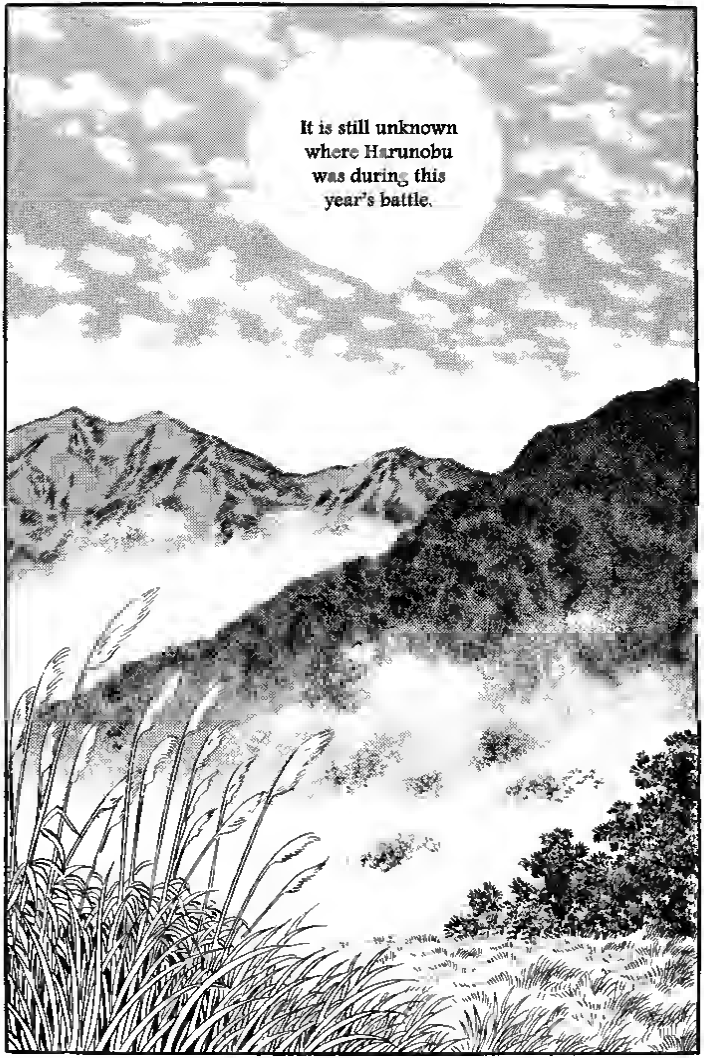
YES, MY LORD.


FOE THOUGH HE MAY BE, I MUST SAY HE IS INCREDIBLE.


On September 5th, Kagetora withdrew his army to Echigo after being strung along by Harunobu. This was the third battle of Kawanakajima.


At the same time, the Army of Kai came in,
and settled in their former castles
North Shinano returned to the possession of Takeda Harunobu.

HEHEHE... KAGETORA MUST BE QUITE WORN OUT.
A MOST EXCELLENT STRATEGY, MY LORD.
HE WHO PLANS WELL DOES NOT FIGHT, AND HE WHO PLANS WELL DOES NOT DIE. WE MUST STRIKE WHERE PREPARATIONS ARE WEAK, AND BE PRUDENT ABOUT HOW WELL-PREPARED EVEN THE SMALLEST ENEMY IS.

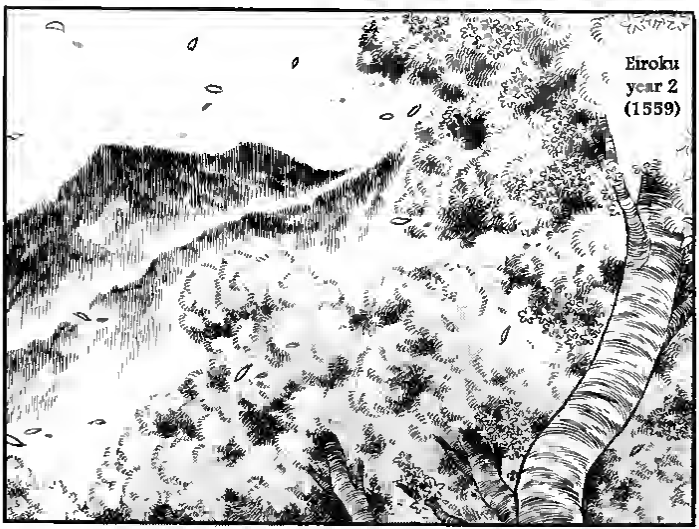

It is still unknown
where Harunobu
was during this
year's battle.

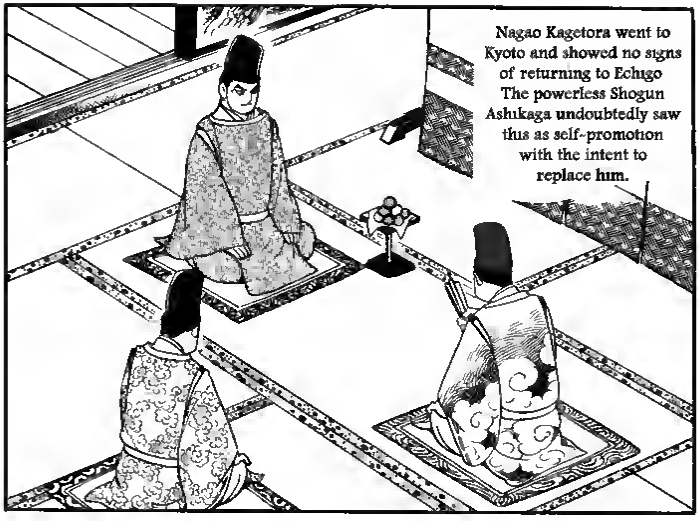
TAKEDA SHINGEN

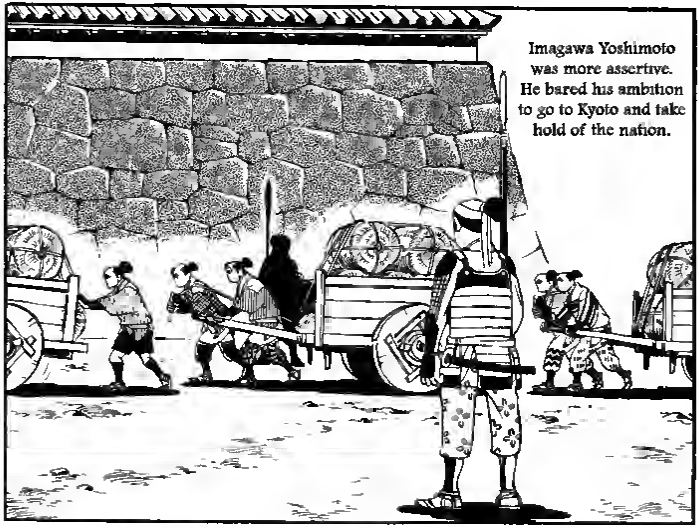
TRANSLATED BY SYSTEMATICCHAOS
PROOFING BY ANGELOFCHAOTIX
EDITING BY HIGHTIDE
QC BY KAZUHIKO

CHAPTER 43

Chapter 44: Harunobu Shaves His Hair




Nagao Kagetora went to Kyoto and showed no signs of returning to Echigo The powerless Shogun Ashikaga undoubtedly saw this as self-promotion with the intent to replace him.


Imagawa Yoshimoto was more assertive. He bared his ambition to go to Kyoto and take hold of the nation.

HMM... THE IKKO SECT IS A HARD FORCE TO IGNORE.
GOOD. SEND HIM IN.
YES, MY LORD.
REPORTING IN. SIR JITSURYO OF CHOEN TEMPLE IS HERE.

YOU SUMMONED ME, MY LORD?
YES, MY LORD.
YES. I WANT YOU TO TAKE A THOUSAND RYO TO THE IKKO SECT OF KAGA AS WAR FUNDS.
SO IF WE KEEP KAGETORA FROM RETURNING FROM KYOTO, THE IKKO SECT IN ECCHU AND KAGA WILL BE AT PEACE. THAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THESE WAR FUNDS.
IT IS SELF-EVIDENT THAT KAGETORA INTENDS TO WIPE OUT THE IKKO SECT FROM ECCHU AND KAGA.

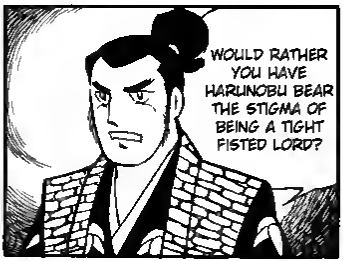
YES, MY LORD.
I HAVE CHOSEN TEN MIGHTY ESCORTS FOR YOU. I WANT YOU TO DEPART AT ONCE.
THAT TAKES CARE OF THE IKKO SECT OF ECCHU AND KAGA...
I AM A FOLLOWER OF ALL SECTS, NOT ONLY THE IKKO. I SHELTER THEM ALL REGARDLESS OF DENOMINATION.
SINCE WHEN DID YOU BECOME A FOLLOWER OF THE IKKO SECT, MY LORD?

I KNOW THAT FULL WELL, AND YOU ARE NOT WRONG IN THINKING SO. OFFERING PROTECTION REGARDLESS OF DENOMINATION OR DEITY WILL RESULT IN GAINING THE FAVOR OF THE PEOPLE WHO WORSHIP THOSE DEITIES.
KOHAKUSAI TOLD ME LONG AGO...
BUT SUPPLYING THE IKKO SECT WITH SUCH WAR FUNDS...
DO NOT HOLD ON TO MONEY, INSTEAD HOLD ON TO PEOPLE. EVEN WHAT MAY SEEM A WASTE OF MONEY WILL EVENTUALLY BRING BACK INTEREST...
I AGREE WITH THAT, BUT WE MUST PREPARE FOR A MAJOR WAR EVENTUALLY. WE WILL NEED ALL THE WAR FUNDS WE CAN MUSTER.

THAT WILL BE THE PERFECT CHANCE FOR THE TAKEDA, AS WELL. BUT WE NEED WAR FUNDS FOR THAT, FOR WE CANNOT FIGHT OUR WARS WITHOUT WAR FUNDS.
LORD IMAGAWA YOSHIMOTO MAY EVEN BEGIN HIS PROCESSION TO THE CAPITAL TOMORROW, AND THAT WILL SHOVE THE WORLD INTO A FRENZY.

YOU MUST NOT WASTE YOUR MONEY. ONE THOUSAND RYO FOR THE IKKO SECT OF ECCHU IS A WASTE.
THEN WHAT DO YOU THINK I SHOULD DO?

THAT WAS NOT MY INTENTION. I AM SAYING YOU HAVE THROWN AROUND TOO MUCH MONEY TO SHRINES AND TEMPLES.


WOULD RATHER YOU HAVE HARUNOBU BEAR THE STIGMA OF BEING A TIGHT FISTED LORD?

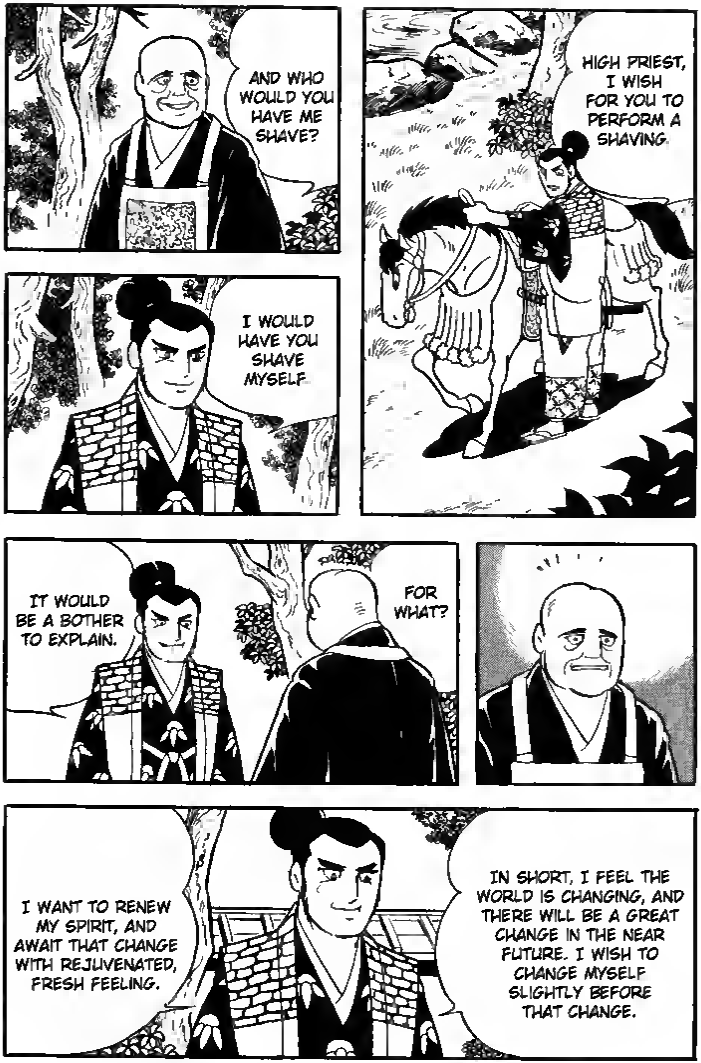
I AM WONDERING IF THERE IS ANY OTHER WAY
AND YOU WOULD HAVE ME STOP?

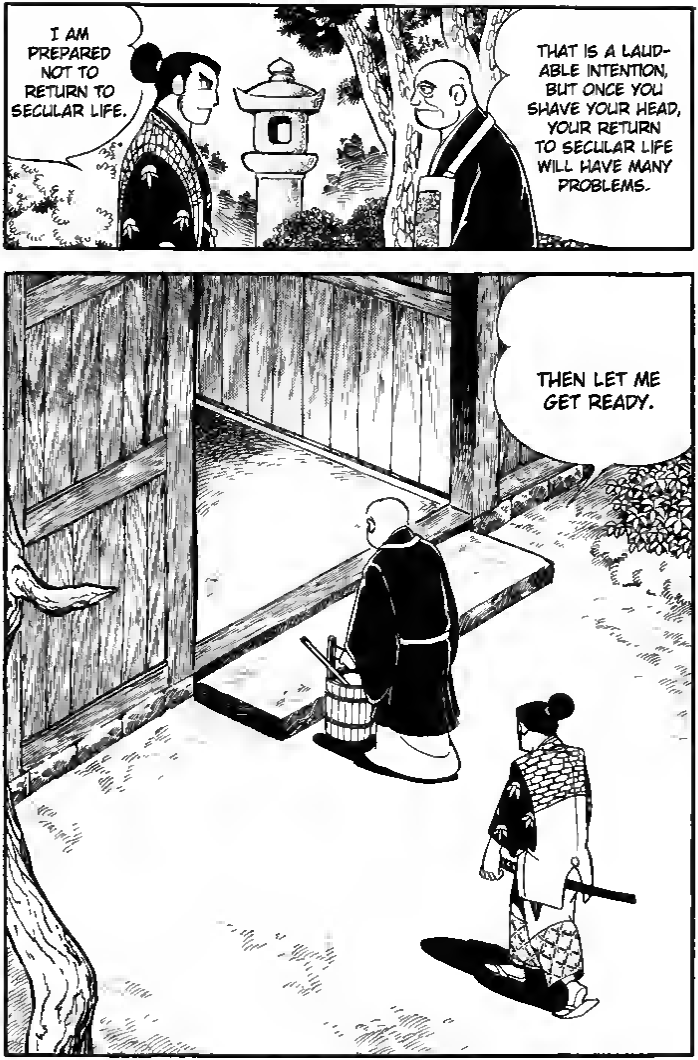
ANY OTHER WAY... THE ONLY WAY TO STEAL THE HEARTS OF THE MONKS, WITHOUT HANDING OVER MONEY OR LAND, IS TO BECOME ONE OF THEM.

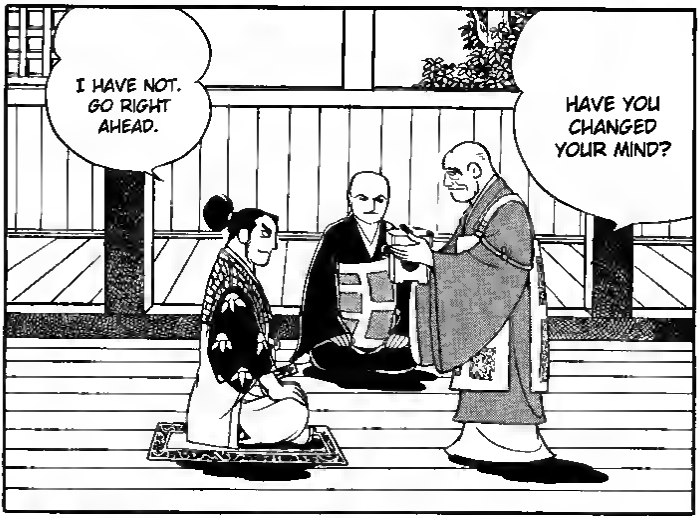
?
THAT'S IT! I MUST BECOME A MONK!

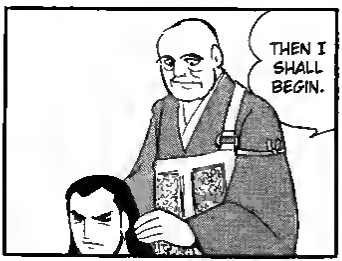
FETCH ME A HORSE!

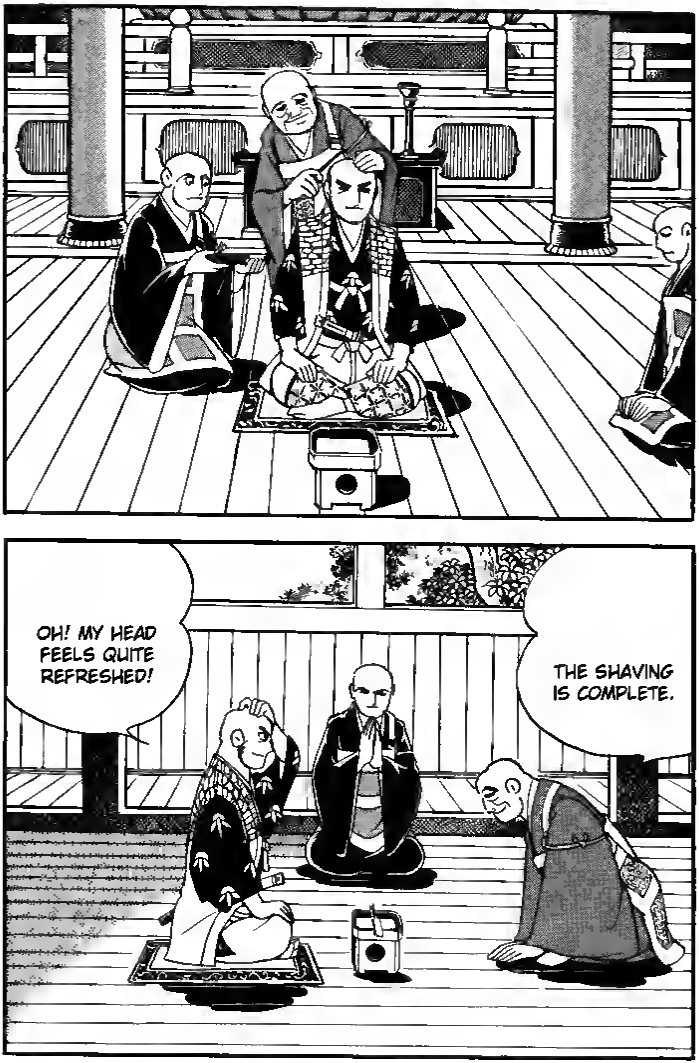
Harunobu hurried to Chozen Temple, the closest temple to him.
OHH, MY LORD!
HIGH PRIEST GISHU!

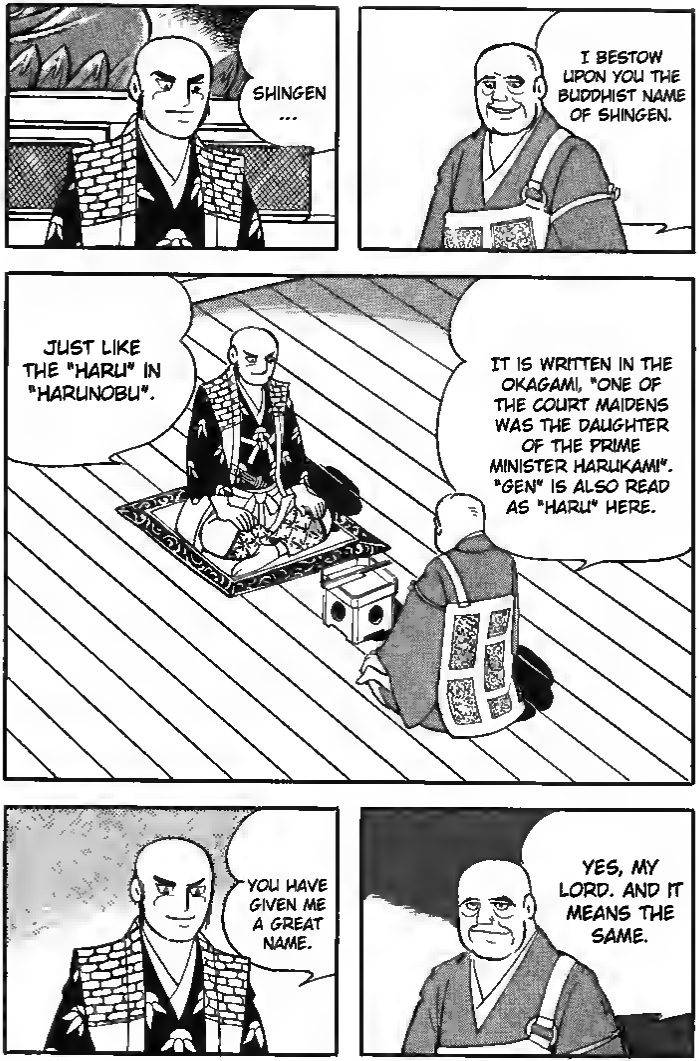

AND WHO WOULD YOU HAVE ME SHAVE?
HIGH PRIEST, I WISH FOR YOU TO PERFORM A SHAVING.
I WOULD HAVE YOU SHAVE MYSELF.
IT WOULD BE A BOTHER TO EXPLAIN.
FOR WHAT?
I WANT TO RENEW MY SPIRIT, AND AWAIT THAT CHANGE WITH REJUVENATED, FRESH FEELING.
IN SHORT, I FEEL THE WORLD IS CHANGING, AND THERE WILL BE A GREAT CHANGE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. I WISH TO CHANGE MYSELF SLIGHTLY BEFORE THAT CHANGE.

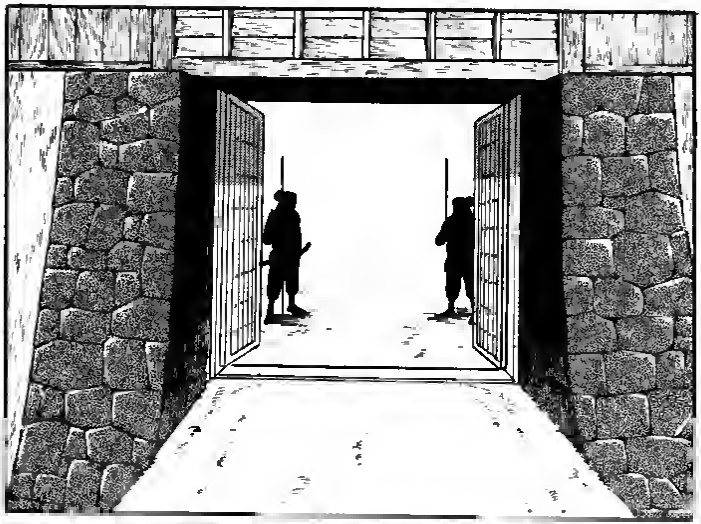

I AM PREPARED NOT TO RETURN TO SECULAR LIFE.
THAT IS A LAUDABLE INTENTION, BUT ONCE YOU SHAVE YOUR HEAD, YOUR RETURN TO SECULAR LIFE WILL HAVE MANY PROBLEMS.
THEN LET ME GET READY.

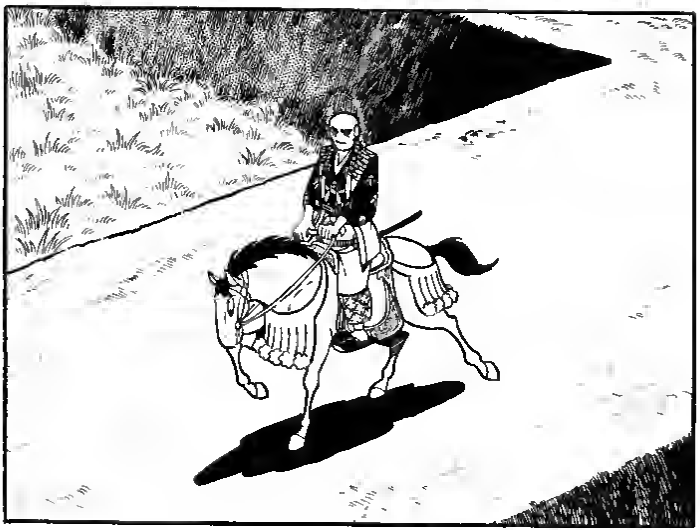

I HAVE NOT. GO RIGHT AHEAD.
HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR MIND?


THEN I SHALL BEGIN.


OH! MY HEAD FEELS QUITE REFRESHED!
THE SHAVING IS COMPLETE.


SHINGEN ...
I BESTOW UPON YOU THE BUDDHIST NAME OF SHINGEN.
JUST LIKE THE "HARU" IN "HARUNOBU".
IT IS WRITTEN IN THE OKAGAMI, "ONE OF THE COURT MAIDENS WAS THE DAUGHTER OF THE PRIME MINISTER HARUKAMI". "GEN" IS ALSO READ AS "HARU" HERE.
YOU HAVE GIVEN ME A GREAT NAME.
YES, MY LORD. AND IT MEANS THE SAME.





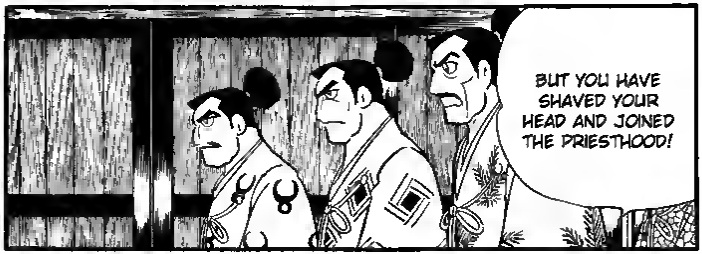
HUH?
HALT! WHO GOES THERE?
YOU'RE... MY LORD?
DO YOU NOT RECOGNIZE ME?

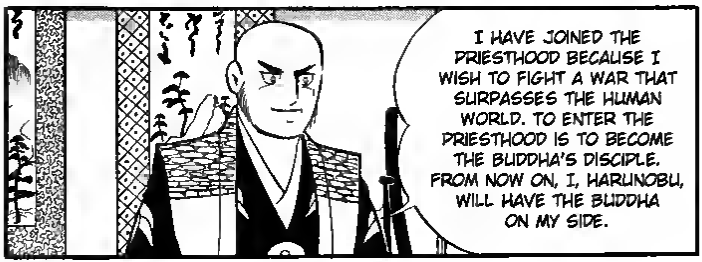
INDEED. I HAVE BECOME A MONK AS OF TODAY.
News of Harunobu's shaving spread around Tsutsuji-ga-Saki Estate and caused an uproar.

ド ド ド
WHAT'S ALL THE COMMOTION ABOUT?
MY LORD!

WHO SAID I WAS RETIRING?

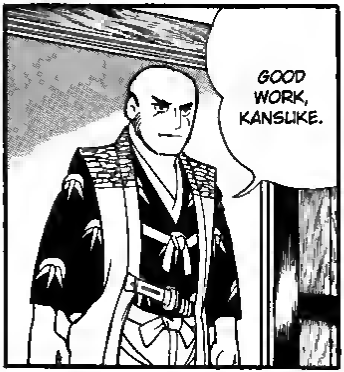
HOW COULD YOU RETIRE AT SUCH A CRUCIAL TIME AS THIS, WITHOUT EVEN CONSULTING US!?

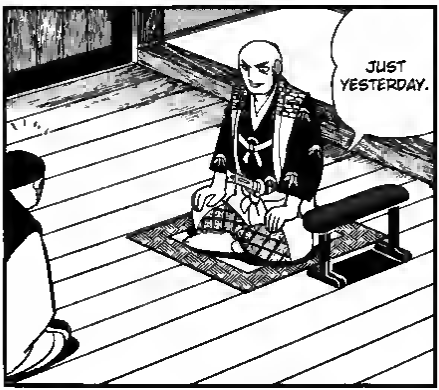

BUT YOU HAVE SHAVED YOUR HEAD AND JOINED THE PRIESTHOOD!


I HAVE JOINED THE PRIESTHOOD BECAUSE I WISH TO FIGHT A WAR THAT SURPASSES THE HUMAN WORLD. TO ENTER THE PRIESTHOOD IS TO BECOME THE BUDDHA'S DISCIPLE. FROM NOW ON, I, HARUNOBU, WILL HAVE THE BUDDHA ON MY SIDE.

HOW COULD I RETIRE AT SUCH A CRUCIAL TIME AS THIS? I AM ONLY THIRTY-NINE.
SO YOU ARE NOT RETIRING?
FROM NOW ON, I SHALL BE KNOWN AS TAKEDA SHINGEN!
TAKEDA SHINGEN?
TAKEDA SHINGEN?

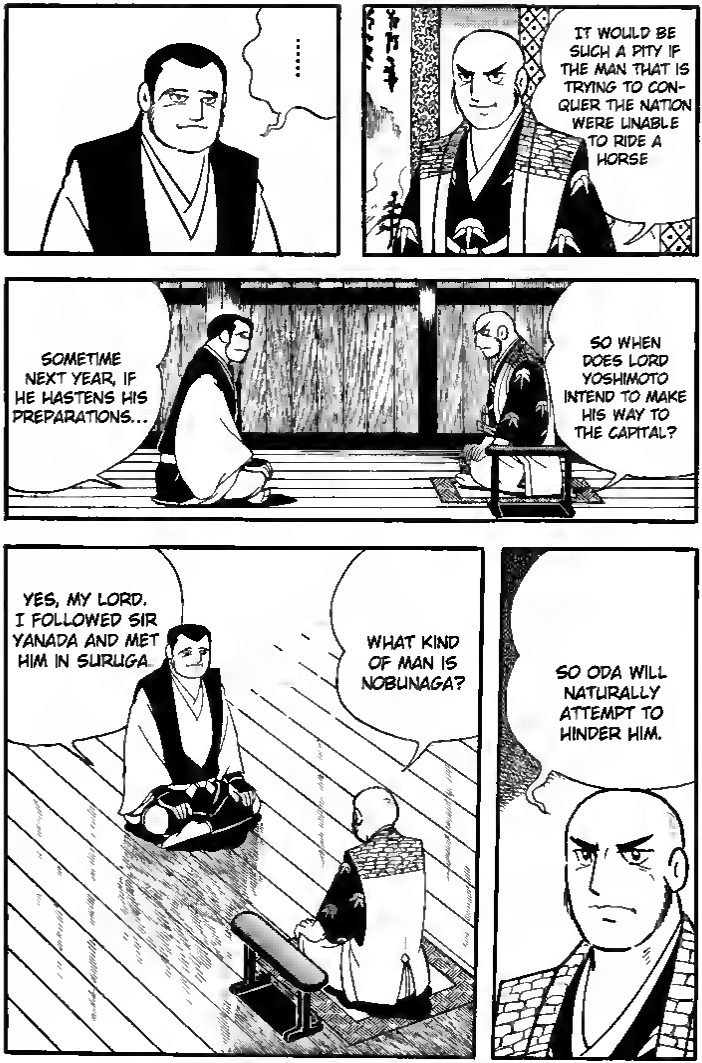
It was then that Yamamoto Kansuke returned from Owari.


GOOD WORK, KANSUKE.

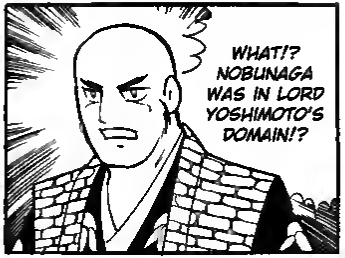

JUST YESTERDAY.

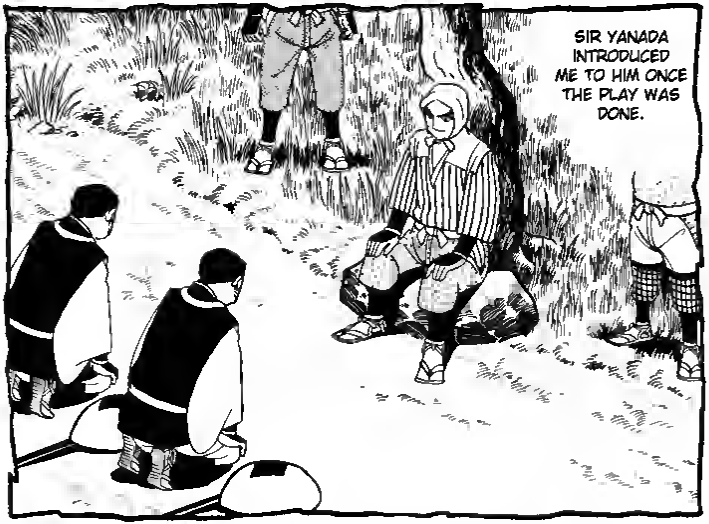
AHHH .. WHEN DID YOU ENTER THE PRIESTHOOD?

YES, MY LORD. LORD YOSHIMOTO HAS CHANGED AS WELL.
WELL? IS LORD IMAGAWA YOSHIMOTO WELL?
OF COURSE, LORD YOSHIMOTO IS A KYOTO-PHILE.
NO, MY LORD. HE HAS JUST SHAVED HIS EYEBROWS AND PUT ON MAKEUP, JUST LIKE A COURT NOBLE.
OH? HOW? HAS HE ENTERED THE PRIESTHOOD LIKE ME?
ALSO...
WHAT!? HE HAS BECOME SO FAT HE CANNOT RIDE A HORSE?
HE HAS FATTENED SO MUCH HE CANNOT RIDE A HORSE.


……
IT WOULD BE SUCH A PITY IF THE MAN THAT IS TRYING TO CONQUER THE NATION WERE UNABLE TO RIDE A HORSE
SOMETIME NEXT YEAR, IF HE HASTENS HIS PREPARATIONS...
SO WHEN DOES LORD YOSHIMOTO INTEND TO MAKE HIS WAY TO THE CAPITAL?
YES, MY LORD. I FOLLOWED SIR YANADA AND MET HIM IN SURUGA.
WHAT KIND OF MAN IS NOBUNAGA?
SO ODA WILL NATURALLY ATTEMPT TO HINDER HIM.

YES, MY LORD. HE WAS DISGUISED AS A PEASANT AND WATCHING A PLAY


WHAT!? NOBUNAGA WAS IN LORD YOSHIMOTO'S DOMAIN!?

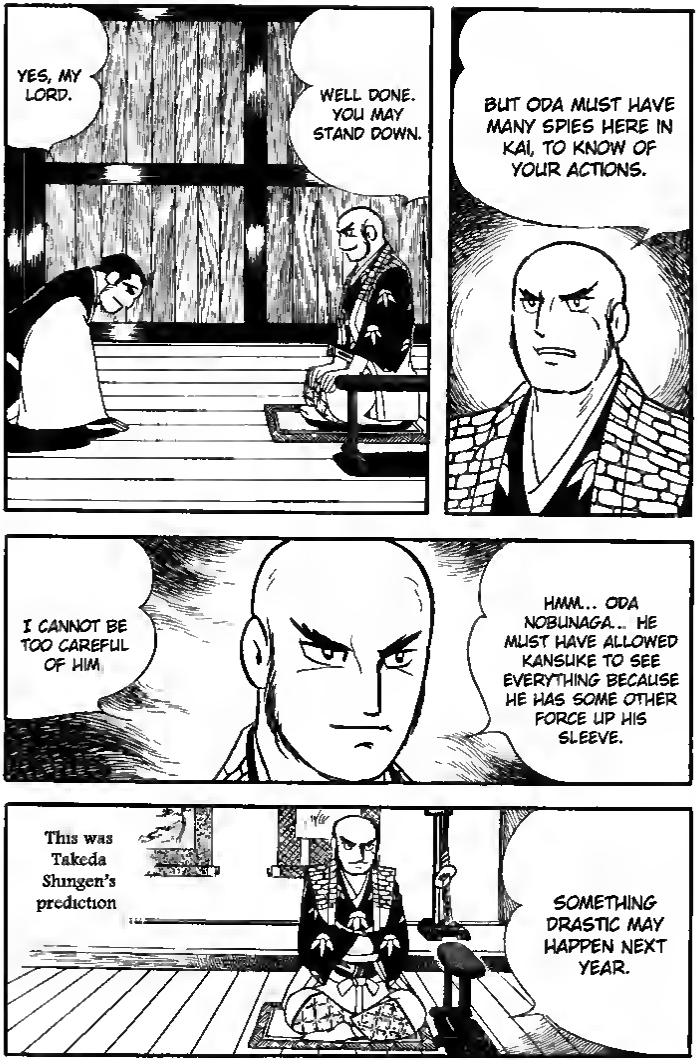

SIR YANADA INTRODUCED ME TO HIM ONCE THE PLAY WAS DONE.

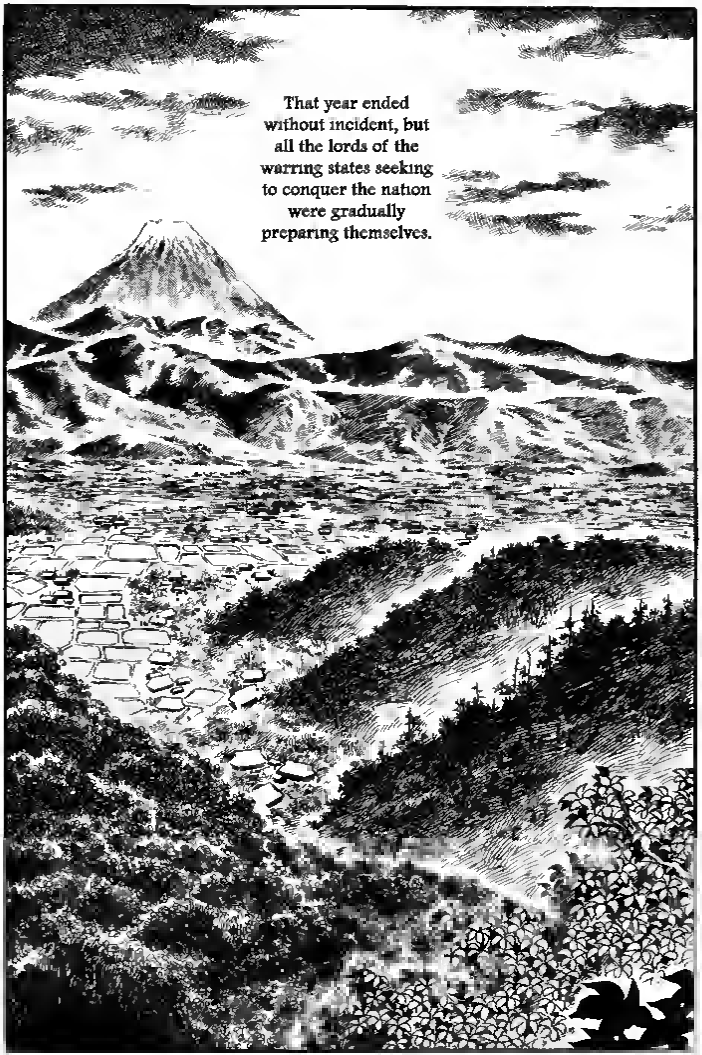
YES, MY LORD. HE SAID "WAVERING IN THE WICKED WIND".

MASATSUNA, WHAT WAS LORD TAKEDA'S RESPONSE...?

SO WAS LORD HARUNOBU MOCKING YOU AS ONE WHO WAVERS AS YOUR WILL MAKES AN EVIL WIND BLOW?
THAT IS A PHRASE THAT MEANS HESITATION WHEN THERE IS AN EVIL WIND BLOWING.
AND THAT MUST BE WHY HE SENT SOMEONE TO INVESTIGATE ME.
NO, NO, NOT THAT. LORD HARUNOBU IS TELLING ME HE FEELS HE IS WAVERING IN THE WICKED WIND. HE IS TELLING ME HE IS WAVERING BECAUSE HE FEELS AN EVIL WIND BLOWING IN HIS OWN HEART. IN OTHER WORDS, HE IS TROUBLED BY HIS DESIRES TO BETRAY IMAGAWA YOSHIMOTO.
HAHHA HAHA!
I AM BUT A SIMPLE MESSENGER. I KNOW NOTHING OF THE SORT.

HUH?
I KNEW THAT YOU WERE FOLLOWING YANADA MASATSUNA AND WOULD ARRIVE HERE IN HIS COMPANY.
I SHALL SHOW YOU ALL OF OWARI, OUR NUMBER OF RIFLES, OF MEN, OF SHIPS... I PERMIT YOU TO INVESTIGATE ANYTHING YOU WISH TO KNOW, AND TO GO BACK AND REPORT TO LORD HARUNOBU.
HMM... I HAD HEARD THAT NOBUNAGA WAS AN UTTER FOOL.
WELL, THAT IS WHAT HE SAID.


YES, MY LORD.
WELL DONE. YOU MAY STAND DOWN.
BUT ODA MUST HAVE MANY SPIES HERE IN KAI, TO KNOW OF YOUR ACTIONS.
I CANNOT BE TOO CAREFUL OF HIM.
HMM... ODA NOBUNAGA... HE MUST HAVE ALLOWED KANSUKE TO SEE EVERYTHING BECAUSE HE HAS SOME OTHER FORCE UP HIS SLEEVE.
This was Takeda Shingen's prediction
SOMETHING DRASTIC MAY HAPPEN NEXT YEAR.


That year ended without incident, but all the lords of the warring states seeking to conquer the nation were gradually preparing themselves.

The Dragon and the Tiger – END

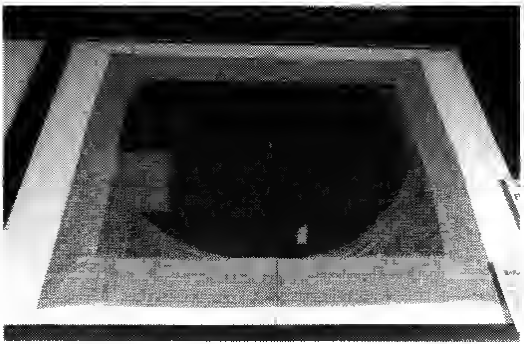
Takeda Shingen Scrapbook ⑬

Unpo Temple – Legacy of the Takeda That Still Stands Today

Above: Long rock staircase leading to the Deva Gate

Below: Main Hall Reconstructed by Nobutora (national treasure)

At the foot of Mt. Daibosatsu, in a tranquil atmosphere looking over the Kofu Basin to the West, there is the famous Unpo Temple of Sakeishi Temple, with a twelve-hundred-year history since the Tenpu Era. It was said to be founded by Bodhisattva Gyoki, by sculpting a statue of the Eleven-Faced Goddess of Mercy in a clover tree grown from a boulder split in two by spiritual power. Unpo Temple has guarded the northeast of Kai Province since then, but it was temporarily ruined by a fire during the Muromachi Era.

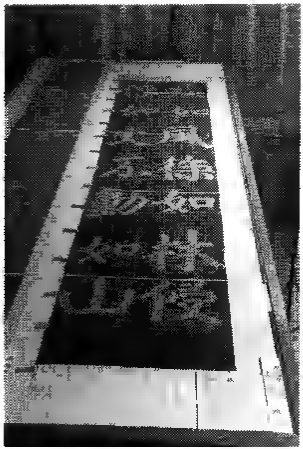


The Great Standard, said to be the oldest Rising Sun flag in Japan

Shingen's battle standard, with three black flowers on a field of red

It was Takeda Nobutora who undertook the reconstruction efforts, and the connections between Unpo Temple and the Takeda Clan deepened since. The main hall and the Deva Gate, designed by the chief priest of the time, Priest Shoen, were prepared to serve as a fortress in an emergency, and its form during the late Muromachi Period has lasted over four hundred years until today. When Takeda Katsuyori committed suicide on Mt. Tenmoku in March of Tensho year 10 (1582), he entrusted the Takeda Clan's heirlooms, the Great Standard and the Shieldless (the standard with Genji's Rising Sun and the Shieldless Armor) to his retainer, who then escaped. When the remnants of the defeated army arrived at Unpo Temple, he dedicated part of the heirlooms and prayed to the spirit of his lord, cutting off his hair and renaming himself Priest Shosei. The standard of Sun Tzu, the battle standard, and the Great Standard offered at this time are permeated with the rise and fall of the Takeda Clan amidst the cool darkness of the main hall, and those who visit it behold them silently.

Above-Left: Flag of High Lord Suwa, which had become a talisman



Above-Right: Shingen's well-known Flag of Sun Tzu

Below: Warrior's hideout above the ceiling, said to have functioned as a fortress

Takeda Shingen Scrapbook⑭

Takeda Hachiman Shrine – Guardian Deity of the Takeda Clan

Above: Stone Torii and Main Gate, with a solemn atmosphere

Below: The silent shrine precincts

Nirasaki was the land where Nobuyoshi, patriarch of the Takeda of Kai, first took up residence, and ever since, it was a crucial location to the Takeda, so much that it could be called their native land. Long ago in Konin year 13 (833), the deity Hachiman of Usa in Kyushu was transferred to this land by command of Emperor Saga, and was enshrined with the local war deity Takeda, said to be a deification of the ancient King Takeda, taking the name of Takeda Hachiman Shrine. The Minamoto of Kai, beginning with Shinra Saburo Yoshimitsu, were strong believers of this shrine, but it was his grandchild Nobuyoshi, who moved to this land and called himself the Son of Takeda, who revered this deity as the guardian deity of the Takeda Clan. Three hundred years later, on Tenbun year 10 (1541), Harunobu (Shingen), who had become the governor, immediately undertook construction of the inner sanctuary, which was completed on December 23rd of that year.

The music pavilion stands atop a stone staircase through the main gate

Hall of worship is just before the inner sanctuary

The buildings stilly aligned along the silent mountain overflow with the characteristics of the Muromachi Era, and even today display the might of the Takeda's golden age. In particular, the front stone wall with a stone Torn gate, and the inner sanctuary, an important cultural property, have endured the elements for years, and all those who see it can sense its divinity

Above-Left. Sacred tree by the inner sanctuary

Above-Right View of the inner sanctuary from the hall of worship

The shrine includes an impassioned prayer for victory from Katsuyori's wife, when he marched forth before his defeat But perhaps not even the power of the gods can resist the massive flow of history...

Below, Inner sanctuary constructed by Shingen, Here is the weight of history

Photography by Taniyama Shinichiro

Important Characters In This Volume

◉ **Kai:**

Takeda Shingen Harunobu
Concubine: Koihime
Concubine: Eri
Brother: Nobushige
Daughter: Tokihime

Spies:
Yamamoto Kansuke

Takeda's Retainers:

Oyamada Nobushige
Oyamada Masatoki
Morozumi Bungo-no-Kami
Ichikawa Bain
Hara Yozaemon
Kasuga Danjo
Kurita Hiroyasu
Koshibami Kunai
Hoshina Danjo
Baba Minbu
Hosei (Erin Temple)
Gishu (Chozen Temple)

◉ **Suruga:**

Imagawa Yoshimoto — Ujizane
Priest Sessai

◉ **Sagami:**

Hojo Ujiyasu — Ujimasa, Daughter

◉ **Echigo:**

Nagao Kagetora
Naoe Kagetsuna

◉ **Owari:**

Oda Nobunaga
Yanada Masatsuna

あなたは，このコミック武田信玄を読んで，どんな感想をお持ちになりましたか。

お読みになった感想やご意見をおよせくだされば幸いです。〒162 東京都新宿区新小川町9 25 日商ヒル5F
講談社 コミック武田信玄編集部

N.D.C.726 238p 19cm

歴史コミック52

コミック 武田信玄(5) 竜虎の巻

定価500円
昭和62年12月12日 第1刷発行

著者 横山光輝
原作 新田次郎
発行者 加藤勝久
発行所 株式会社講談社
〒112 東京都文京区音羽2 12 21
電話 東京(03)945-1111(大代表)
編集 株式会社第一出版センター
代表 原田 裕
〒162 東京都新宿区新小川町9-25 日商ビル
電話 東京(03)235-3051
印刷所 株式会社廣済堂
製本所 株式会社堅省堂

©千早クラブ 藤原てい 1987

講談社 Printed in Japan

■落丁本・乱丁本は小社雑誌業務部宛にお送りください。送料小社負担にてお取替えします。なおこの本についてのお問い合わせは第一出版センター宛にお願いいたします。

ISBN4-06-104352-8(0) (セ)

歴史コミック―絶賛好評発売中

作画・横山光輝　原作・山岡荘八

伊達政宗　全8巻

①朝明けの巻　②風雲の巻
③両雄競智の巻　④人生勝負の巻
⑤天下風船の巻　⑥黄金列島の巻
⑦大坂攻めの巻　⑧平和戦略の巻

織田信長　全6巻

①新星誕生の章　②無門三略の章
③骨肉の章　④桶狭間の章
⑤侵略怒濤の章　⑥本能寺の章

徳川家康　全23巻

カバー題字――奥泉元晟　design――森下年昭

TAKEDA SHINGEN

TRANSLATED BY SYSTEMATICCHAOS
PROOFING BY ANGELOFCHAOTIX
EDITING BY HIGHTIDE
QC BY KAZUHIKO

CHAPTER 44